

THE TIMES Tomorrow

Easy glider... Ronald Faux looks at the new emphasis on safety in hang-gliding.
On the road... A journey that rediscovers the splendours of old Syria.
With a backpack... How to make light work of a long walk.



Wheeling... The second part of the competition with a Ford Sierra XR4i as first prize.
Dealing... The writer in Stalin's pocket: the extraordinary story of Soviet apologist Alexei Tolstoy.
Revealing... The costs of differential mortgages, in which interest charges are higher for bigger borrowers.

Social work to open its records

People receiving help from the social services are to be given the right to see their case records, under guidance issued by the Department of Health and Social Security in a move which overturns decades of social work practice. **Page 3**

Spain by-passes Maltese tactics

Spain is going ahead with invitations to the foreign ministers of the 35 nations at the European Security Review Conference to meet in Madrid next month, despite Malta's obstructionist tactics. **Page 4**

Maxwell rebuff

Three institutional shareholders of the John Waddington games manufacturer have withdrawn their acceptances to the takeover offer from Mr Robert Maxwell's BPCF shortly before he was expected to announce he had won control. **Page 13**

Walesa chaired

Lech Walesa was carried on the shoulders of chanting supporters after a stormy meeting at the Gdansk shipyard called by the government to explain its policies. Minister jeered. **Page 5**

Murder charge

Two leaders of the Ulster Defence Association were arrested as a man was accused of murdering Mrs Maire Drumm, of Provisional Sinn Féin, in hospital, seven years ago. **Page 2**

Beirut blasts

A French soldier was killed and eight others injured in an explosion in Beirut. Another blast at the Air France office in Beirut killed three Lebanese. **Page 4**

Trudeau in peril

Mr Pierre Trudeau, the Canadian Prime Minister, is facing a clamour from his Liberal Party backbenchers for his resignation. **Page 5**

Scientific talks

The meetings of the British Association for the Advancement of Science are reported on **Page 2**.

Football trio

Scotland want to invite a leading world football country to take part in a three-cornered tournament with England to replace the Home Championship, which is being discontinued. **Page 17**

British gold

Adrian Moorhouse, aged 19, won Britain's first gold medal at the European swimming championships at Rome in the 200 metres breaststroke. **Page 16**

Leader page 9
Letters: On the Liberals, from Mr M Meadowcroft, MP, and Lord Beaumont of Whitley; university research, from Professor J M Thomas, FRSE.
Reading articles: Mitterrand and Chad; Prisoners in foreign jails; BA goes to law; features, pages 6-8.
Making sense of the crime figures: Pakistan's simmering province; images to impress the voter; Spectrum: the condition of American blacks. Friday page: what children really think of their holidays.
Obituary, page 10, Mr J Cleveland Bell.

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Two pits closed in swift action to test militants

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

The National Coal Board yesterday issued its long-expected challenge to miners' leaders by announcing the immediate closure of two pits in militant coalfields regarded as test cases in the battle over uneconomic collieries.

In the last days of Sir Norman Siddall's chairmanship of the board the industry's senior management has dismissed appeals against the shutdown of Cardowan pit near Glasgow and Brynllw mine near Swansea, employing a total of 1,400 men.

Pitmen at Cardowan are holding a secret ballot to decide whether they will continue their opposition to the closure. Mr Alec Hogg, delegate of the National Union of Mineworkers there, said that if the men voted for industrial action the colliery could be occupied.

In South Wales, the NUM area executive meets today to discuss the union's next step following the "complete shock" registered locally by the closure decision.

However, the board is moving swiftly to head off a possible confrontation by ceasing coal production at Cardowan today and putting the mine on a salvage basis from Monday. Priority is being given to the transfer of men to other Scottish pits.

In the absence of Mr Arthur Scargill, president of the NUM, who is in Moscow on union business, a spokesman at union headquarters in Sheffield accused the board of "losing all sense of reason".

It was becoming "brutally clear" that the board was

operating to a government dictate to hit miners' jobs as hard as possible, he said.

"As with all bullies they will only stop when the membership hit back," he added. The opportunity for the NUM to do so will come on September 15, when the national executive meets to decide whether the time is "appropriate" to hold a secret pithead ballot in the hope of securing a 45 per cent majority for strike action.

The initial response of union leaders yesterday, however, was cautious and points away from an early appeal for industrial action. Mr Michael McGahey, president of the Scottish miners, said that he would be seeking national talks to defend Cardowan. Its closure would be top of the agenda at next month's executive meeting.

By then the pit is likely to be shut. Of the original workforce of 1,090, about 70 have been transferred and another 30 have volunteered for redundancy. The board says that about 150 men will be kept in for salvage work and the rest will be offered jobs in the Fife Coalfield.

Mr Albert Wheeler, director of the Scottish area, said: "We now want to get these men into our more productive collieries so they can make a contribution to the area's drive for higher productivity and to improve the profitability of our pits. Older men who have given a lifetime of service to the industry can take advantage of our voluntary redundancy scheme."

A similar battle over the fate of Kinnell colliery in Scotland ended in defeat for the union over the Christmas holiday

period, and the board's main headache may be in South Wales.

Brynllw, which employs about 800 men, must close even though it has substantial reserves because it is losing £52 on every tonne brought out of the pit, the board argues. In 1983-84 it is projected to lose £6.5m and its market at an electricity generating station nearby, also scheduled to close, has collapsed.

Leaders of the South Wales miners meet today to decide whether to call for industrial action.

Mr Don Hayward, union financial secretary of the area, argued last night that the case for Brynllw was "cast iron". It had between ten and 15 years of coal reserves "and if they close Brynllw, they can threaten any colliery in the British coalfield", he claimed.

In a farewell message to the industry, Sir Norman said last night that progress was being made in the fight to become more efficient. But he insisted that the board must move out of "high cost mining capacity" to avoid further losses.

"Last year 12 per cent of output lost £275m—almost three quarters of the £374 deficit grant paid by the Government. That is a drain on the rest of the industry. It has to be remedied with as little hardship as possible to the people involved", he said.

His place will be taken by Mr Ian MacGregor, chairman of the British Steel Corporation, next Thursday. He is expected to take a strong line with the unions.



Ian Botham hitting a six on his way to his first century for England in 22 innings. Report page 16. (Photograph: Ian Stewart).

Union poll reveals massive support for secret ballots

By David Felton, Labour Correspondent

The Government's assertions that its proposed trade union law reforms have the backing of rank and file union members received significant support yesterday from an internal union poll which showed that an overwhelming number of members supported the introduction of secret ballots for strike votes and the election of executives.

The survey of members of the TUC-affiliated Inland Revenue Staff Federation (IRSF) is likely to prove an embarrassment to the union movement's campaign against the latest union curbs proposed by Mr Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Employment.

Mr Tebbit's proposals, and the question whether or not the unions should enter talks with him, will be major controversies at the TUC congress in Blackpool in ten days and ministers are certain to capitalize on the union study showing that 94 per cent of its members think a secret ballot should be held before industrial action is called.

In a further question in the opinion poll, conducted for the union by a firm of industrial communications consultants,

between 63 per cent and 75 per cent, depending on their grade, supported secret ballots for election of the union executives.

The 65,000-strong IRSF has a tradition of being a moderate union, but during the 1981 civil service strikes it was at the forefront of the industrial action and was able to claim stronger membership support for the pay campaign than most of the eight other unions involved.

Union leaders argued last night that the poll should not be interpreted as complete membership support for the Tebbit proposals because it covered a wide range of issues, including calls for greater industrial democracy, which were ignored by the White Paper last month.

Mr Tebbit intends to introduce a Bill during the next parliamentary session covering compulsory secret ballots. It is likely that next month's Congress will authorize talks with the minister on his proposals, but only on the basis of continued opposition to the curbs.

Mr Anthony Christopher, general secretary of the IRSF, who is a member of the TUC general council, said last night that "in a very simple sense"

the study could be taken as backing for the Government's plans but the legislation proposed "displayed an abysmal ignorance of the way unions are run".

He announced that the IRSF executive would be taking immediate action to implement recommendations of the poll although the final decision will rest with a special union conference in December. If there is conference support, the principle of pre-strike secret ballots will be adopted straight away.

The importance of the survey can be gauged from the fact that Mr Len Murray, TUC general secretary, issued a statement welcoming it, and Mr Patrick Lowry, chairman of the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service, was at yesterday's news conference which unveiled the findings.

Mr Murray said the survey showed "the capacity of unions to take account of the interests and concerns of their own particular membership". The Tebbit approach, which aimed to impose uniformity, was likely to be counter-productive, he said.

But the Prime Minister goes on to say that the Labour Party, in her own terms, is moving further and further beyond political redemption.

She says "Socialists have always seemed to me to assume that other people were creating a world for them to distribute. And now the Labour Party is going further and further socialist."

"It wants to control the lives of people more and more. They don't want to sell council houses; they want to order where people live and what rent they should pay. They expand the public sector, so they can say: 'You have to vote for me because your job depends upon it.'"

Her interviewer asks: "The true opposition to you would be what?"

The Prime Minister replies: "Well, a different way of achieving the same objective."

She is asked: "Within the same framework of free enterprise?" She replies: "Yes, yes."

Mr Roy Jenkins, former leader of the Social Democratic Party, commented yesterday on the remarks that Mrs Thatcher had made during the election campaign: "She wanted Labour to be the main party of."

Continued on back page, col 1

Mitterrand ready to fight Chad rebels

From Diana Geddes, Paris

France is ready to fight the Libyan-backed rebels in Chad if they launch a new offensive against President Hissene Habré's forces, President Mitterrand stated yesterday.

While insisting that France wants a negotiated settlement, he confirmed his total opposition to any settlement involving the partition of Chad. However, he left deliberately unclear what France's response would be to any attempt by President Habré to recapture the key town of Faya-Largeau in the Libyan-occupied northern half of the country.

Earlier this week, the Chadian Government announced that it would ask France for military help when it was ready to launch its counter-offensive against Faya-Largeau.

Mitterrand insisted yesterday that the French troops "cannot be considered as an auxiliary force subject to a strategy in whose determination they have no part".

"We must now harmonize our actions. Since France's presence is considered necessary, it must be understood that she will only go where she wishes in the joint interests that she is trying to serve," The President added.

M Charles Hernu, the French Defence Minister, flew to Ndjamena at the President's request yesterday, officially "in order to inspect the French troops." However, it is expected that he will also hold talks with

Cup yacht designer may sue

From David Miller, Newport, Rhode Island

Mr Ben Lexcen, designer of the controversial Royal Perth Yacht Club challenger for the America's Cup, Australia II, is considering legal action against the New York Yacht Club, defenders of the trophy.

In the latest hostilities caused by the New York Yacht Club's repeated attempts to discredit the Australian boat, Mr Warren Jones, executive director for the Australia II syndicate, yesterday revealed that the New York club's agents tried to persuade a Dutch boatyard official to sign an affidavit swearing incorrectly that Australia II was not designed by Mr Lexcen.

As the case moves, Mr Jones released a copy of a letter from the New York club dated June 11, 1982, signed by the secretary of the America's Cup Committee, in which the Australia II syndicate was cleared to use the Netherlands Ship Model Basin tank testing facilities.

Mr Jones revealed he had been notified by telex by Dr Peter van Oossanen that on Wednesday, Mr Richard Latham, a member of the New York club committee, and Mr Will Valentini, a close relative of the designer for the US Liberty/Freedom syndicate, gave him an affidavit containing incorrect statements attempting to suggest that Mr Lexcen was not solely responsible for the design of Australia II.

Mr van Oossanen said the charges contained in the affidavit were untrue and he refused to sign it. He said he had previously informed the New York Club that Mr Lexcen was the sole designer.

Mr Jones said he was angered by the New York club's latest attempt to avoid racing Australia II by casting doubts on the Australian yacht's right to compete. Australia II contests the elimination finale in a best of seven races with the Royal Burmah challenger, Victory '83, starting on Sunday.

Legal moves, page 18

Oil drum raft's skipper saved by Spanish ship

By Richard Evans

Gunther Miesef, the madcap German seafarer given up for dead after his empty oil drum raft, complete with bicycle, was found in the Bay of Biscay last weekend, is safe and well.

The lone sailor, who was sighted off Devon earlier this month during his bid to sail from Germany to Portugal, had been picked up by a Spanish ship, the Jata Mendí.

His 11-day voyage, called Das Ding (The Thing) - consisted of bits of wood, metal and oil drums lashed together, with a bicycle tied to the makeshift deck.

French search and rescue officials told Falmouth coastguards last night that The Thing's skipper was recovered safe and sound.

Mr Michael Clouston, a Falmouth coastguard, said last night: "Apart from being extremely foolish he is extremely lucky."

American women hopping mad at bunny gibe

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

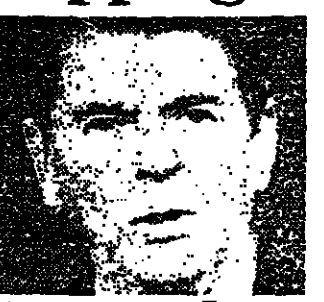
He has come in for strong criticism from women's organizations because of some disparaging references made by officials about Miss Barbara Honneger, a former Justice Department craft - official who has created a storm by assailing the Administration's record on women's rights.

In what would appear to be an attempt to discredit Miss Honneger, who headed a task force looking into sexually discriminating legislation, government spokesmen have referred to her as "a low-level munchkin" and an "Easter bunny".

Mr Larry Speakes, the White House spokesman, said that the last time he recalled seeing Miss Honneger was when she was dressed up as "an Easter bunny in the White House Easter egg roll".

In an attempt to be funny which left many White House reporters grinning, he added: "It was quite an admirable thing to do. It is not easy to dress up in that hot bunny suit. I've never done it, and I'm sort of ashamed to admit it."

Miss Honneger, who has become something of a folk hero among women's groups since her critique on the Administration's record appeared in *The Washington Post*



President Reagan: Plagued by the "gender gap".

not of what I have done but of what they have not done."

Ever since he came to office President Reagan has been plagued by the "gender gap". A recent poll showed that his approval rating among women was only 34 per cent compared with 51 per cent among men. As there are substantially more women of voting age than there are men, this gap could have serious implications for the President if he decides to seek a second term.

Unemployment and cuts in social benefits have fallen more heavily on women than men. Many are alarmed by His "macho" image on defence and nuclear weapons issues. His

stand on abortion and the equal rights amendment has also caused widespread alienation.

Earlier this month he told a conference of the International Federation of Business and Professional Women: "I happen to be one who believes if it wasn't for women, us new would still be walking around in skin suits, carrying clubs." The women found the remark offensive because it implied that a woman's role was at home supporting a man.

A big campaign is being prepared to demonstrate the President's commitment to sexual equality. This could include a "mea culpa" speech and apologise to try harder in the months ahead.

Follow the Leader



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Task force sails into dispute

The Royal Navy will be left with only eight frigates and destroyers to guard Britain's approaches to the North Atlantic when a task force leaves for New Zealand next week, it was claimed last night.

The claim, in a Press Association report, was queried however, by senior naval sources.

The aircraft carrier *Invincible* will lead a destroyer, five frigates and five supply vessels on a deployment which will last until next spring.

The report quotes "authoritative sources" as describing the absence as a "calculated risk". It adds that 12 more warships are committed to Falkland Islands duties, three are in the Caribbean and one is in the Gulf.

Official sources added last night that the deployment had been authorized only after consultation with Nato's Supreme Allied Commander Atlantic in Norfolk, Virginia.

Flagpole tied up in red tape

Villagers in Sadderbury, Co. Durham, have been given permission to put a flagpole on their village green to celebrate the wedding of the Prince and Princess of Wales - more than two years late.

The parish, near Darlington, blames bureaucracy for the delay. The flagpole needed special authority because it is to be put up in a conservation area. Darlington Borough Council still has to give planning approval for the scheme but the flagpole may be up next year.

Cable TV firm plans arts show

A daily four-hour television arts programme is being compiled for cable television operators by British Cable Programmes, which expects to inject £2m a year in fee payments into British music and drama.

The Government has invited applications for 12 pilot multi-channel cable television franchises.

Thatcher to join world phone-in

Mrs Margaret Thatcher will become the first national leader to take part in a world-wide radio phone-in this autumn when she answers questions for 30 minutes from listeners to the BBC World Service.

Strike at Vauxhall's Ellesmere Port plant halts production

A strike by 1,800 assembly workers at Vauxhall's Ellesmere Port car factory in Merseyside brought production to a standstill yesterday.

The men are believed to have taken their action after instructions from Coventry, where negotiations from the Transport and General Workers' Union are discussing the company's annual pay claim, with the management.

All car assembly work at the factory was brought to a halt, although the remainder of the 5,150 employees at the factory remained at their posts.

The men on strike are demanding a £25 wage increase across the board, a reduction in working hours, increased overtime payments and improved sickness and holiday benefits.

The Ellesmere Port factory normally produces 38 vehicles an hour, 20 Astra cars, ten Astra vans and eight Chevettes.

A week-long strike by 1,300 boilermakers at Cammell Laird shipbuilders in Birkenhead Merseyside, ended yesterday

afternoon. The men had walked out in a dispute over work being brought into the shipyard from an outside contractor. They took strike action after 40 of their colleagues lost their pay for refusing to handle welded steel units supplied from outside.

The boilermakers, members of the General Municipal, Boilermakers and Allied Trades Union, decided to accept a peace document produced after a week of negotiation with the Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service (Acas).

The company has agreed to put the 40 men back on full pay, and according to a union official, the firm has conceded that it was wrong to use outside contractors without consultation.

Negotiations are to continue on the question of the men's pay since the management took action against them.

The ending of the strike will renew the yard's hopes of winning a Royal Navy order for a Type 22 destroyer. Failure to

win new contracts by next spring could mean 1,400 redundancies as part of British Shipbuilders' cuts across the industry.

Cammell Laird's managing director, Mr Alistair Lamb, said that the boilermakers' decision to go back was vital to the yard's future.

"It was an unnecessary dispute, but the men made a very necessary decision for the survival interests of the yard. It must be welcomed that the men have recognized that," he said.

Shipyard workers who brought work on a Royal Navy destroyer to a standstill on Wednesday agreed to return to work "under protest" after a mass meeting yesterday.

About 270 semi-skilled men had walked out at Swan Hunter's Neptune yard on the Tyne in a dispute over redundancies and the stoppage spread to the rest of the workforce.

A Swan Hunter spokesman said he was optimistic that the issue could be resolved.

Dismissed journalists wait on talks

By Ronald Faux

Three hundred journalists in Manchester, dismissed by Express Newspapers over a Christmas working disagreement, were last night awaiting the outcome of negotiations in London between the management and officials of the National Union of Journalists (NUJ).

The journalists work on the *Daily Star*, the northern editions of the *Daily Express* and the *Scottish Sunday Express*. They had refused to leave a mandatory union meeting on Wednesday at which they narrowly rejected a management offer to "buy out" their right not to work on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. About half the members were at the meeting when they learnt that all journalists working for Express Newspapers in Manchester had been dismissed.

The union said last night that it had accepted part of a pay deal amounting to about 5 per cent but refused to give up the right not to work on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day for a £250 lump sum.

Wary union support for youth scheme

By David Felton, Labour Correspondent

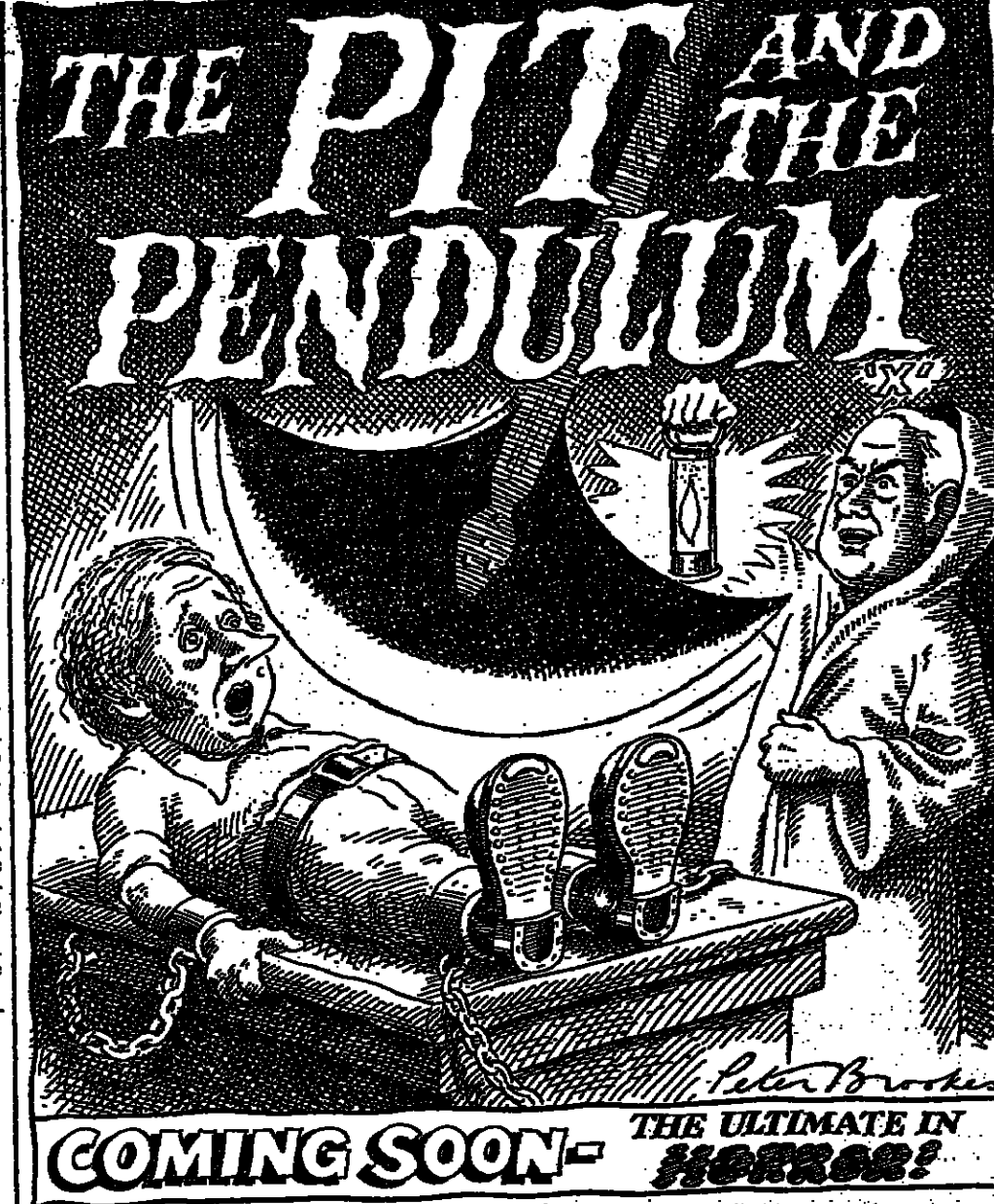
The Government is assured of continued trade union support for the controversial £1,000m Youth Training Scheme (YTS) after the publication today of a TUC guide which urges cooperation.

TUC commitment to the scheme will be questioned at the annual congress in Blackpool early next month, but unions are expected to give their support, with some qualifications, and will continue to press for improvements.

The guidelines were seen by opponents of the YTS as an attempt to undermine opposition at Blackpool, but most of the attention during the training debate will be focused on ways of ensuring that youngsters on the scheme receive the highest possible allowance, and join unions.

The Manpower Service Commission has promised places on the scheme by Christmas to all unemployed school leavers aged 16. Each trainee will receive a £25 a week allowance for the year's vocational training.

Launching the guidelines, Mr Len Murray, general secretary of the TUC, said the scheme would help young people towards a career, but some employers might try to exploit it financially and others might not have the necessary training expertise.



Court to hear BA appeal for shuttle ruling

By a Staff Reporter

British Airways' High Court application for a ruling on British Midland Airways' plan to operate a shuttle service between Heathrow and Belfast is expected to be heard today.

BA hopes to prevent its independent rival from competing on the route, after the Civil Aviation Authority's decision to grant British Midland a licence.

If the application succeeds the hearing is expected to be held in October, probably in open court. The case will challenge the CAA's interpretation of the Civil Aviation Act, 1980, in granting British Midland a licence.

Behind the legal move lies the independent airline's recent success in capturing a third of the shuttle traffic to Scotland from BA.

Leading article, page 9

Meacher puts case for minimum wage

By Our Parliamentary Staff

Mr Michael Meacher yesterday abandoned his conciliatory tone in Labour's deputy leadership contest and said his rival, Mr Roy Hattersley, had resorted to a 10-year-old idea, by advocating an index of poverty.

He said: "There is nothing wrong with the idea. The problem is mobilizing the political support to do something about it."

Mr Meacher, who has campaigned against low pay by speaking at a London meeting organized by the Low Pay Unit, the Fabian Society and the National Union of Public Employees, which is balloting for a recommendation to support him.

He said the only solution to low pay was a national minimum wage. Well before the next election the Labour Party and

UDA man accused of hospital murder

From Richard Ford, Belfast

Two leading members of the Ulster Defence Association (UDA) were arrested yesterday as a one-time member of the Protestant paramilitary organization was accused of murdering Mrs Maure Drummond, 36, the former vice-president of Provisional Sinn Féin, seven years ago.

Mrs Drummond was shot dead in 1976 while in hospital, recovering from an eye operation.

Andrew Tyrer, commander of the UDA, with John McMichael, chairman of the organization's political wing, and two others, were being questioned at Catteragh holding centre under the province's anti-terrorism laws after being held in dawn raids.

Under emergency legislation police can hold the four people for up to seven days before either charging them or setting them free.

Hours after the arrests UDA sources alleged that Stanley Smith, aged 29, who is accused of murdering Mrs Drummond, had become an informer. His parents and married sister moved from their home in north Belfast to new addresses early yesterday with police in attendance to prevent any trouble.

The RUC deny they have been taken into police protective custody, but by moving away the family seem to fear retaliation by extreme loyalist paramilitaries, who in the past have planted small bombs and fired shots at the homes of relatives of alleged informers.

Mr Tyrer, aged 42, is at present on bail charged with conspiring to possess information likely to be of use to terrorists. He was arrested at his home.

At the same time, Mr McMichael, aged 35, who stood for the Ulster Loyalist Democratic Party in the Belfast South by-election last year, went with police from his home in Lisburn.

Belfast Magistrates Court, Mr Smith, from the Crumlin Road area, was accused of the murder of Mrs Drummond. He faces 11 other terrorist charges, including possession of a gun and ammunition but those were not put to him at the preliminary hearing.

When charged Mr Smith, who was 16 at the time of the murder, had nothing to say. After a lawyer for the defence indicated there was a prima facie case to answer he was sent for trial to Belfast Crown Court.

Spotlight on leopards

Defence policy 'based on myth of Soviet threat'

Britain's nuclear defence policy is based on a series of myths and false perceptions, according to evidence presented to the BA meeting yesterday by an expert in peace and conflict research.

The "Soviet threat" has become an important justification for the British nuclear deterrent. Yet, according to Dr Paul Smoker, of Lancaster University, independent studies of Soviet and Western interventions in wars and conflicts since the Second World War show "that if the Soviet threat is cause for concern then the Western threat is at least ten times more serious".

One study showed that the Western countries intervened in 64 wars between 1945 and 1976, while the Soviet Union and its allies took part in six. (Only direct military intervention was counted, not arms sales, technical or political assistance or technology transfer).

A different analysis cited by Dr Smoker looked at foreign intervention in 64 post-war conflicts (defined more broadly this time to include coups and large civil disturbances as well as wars). Western nations intervened on 243 occasions and the Communist countries, including North Vietnam, Cuba, China and the Warsaw Pact nations, only on 20.

"Of course it can be argued that the Soviet threat manifests itself in other ways such as arms sales, training of military personnel and spying, and there is probably some truth in this assertion," Dr Smoker said.

"It is almost certainly the case that similar activities by Western nations also constitute a component of the Western threat and that comparative studies of the relative use of such procedures would not necessarily find the Soviet threat to be greater".

Dr Smoker, who is at the Richardson Institute for Conflict and Peace Research at Lancaster, challenged the related deterrent is responsible for the very low level of warfare in Europe and the absence of a great power war.

Historical evidence showed that important wars in Europe, and between great powers, have been occurring with steadily decreasing frequency over the past 400 years, though when one does happen it is increasingly destructive. According to that trend, Dr Smoker argued,

Reports by
Pearce Wright
Clive Cookson
and Lucy Hodges

another world war since 1945 would have been unlikely if nuclear weapons had not been developed.

Dr Smoker added his voice to those arguing that civil defence was a waste of money, saying: "The scientific evidence clearly demonstrates that such procedures would be of little or no value in the event of a nuclear war".

Professor Ronald Dore, assistant director of the Technical Change Centre in London, said that the West must take the short-term risk of trusting the Soviet Union in disarmament talks, for the sake of making a nuclear holocaust less likely during the twenty-first century.

He estimated the probabilities of future nuclear scenarios under different assumptions. The chance of a nuclear war breaking out in the next 30 years was about 15 per cent, he estimated, whether or not the super-powers begin serious arms reduction talks.

The probability of a big nuclear war would rise to 45 per cent by the year 2073 if the super-powers relied on a balance of mutual deterrence without risking mutual disarmament. If, on the other hand, they did trust one another in disarmament negotiations, the probability of a nuclear holocaust by 2073 would decrease to 32 per cent.

Magnetic theory of the Earth's iron core

How did the Earth obtain its iron-rich core? The traditional view that at an early stage of formation dense molten blobs of iron simply sank to the centre of the planet was challenged yesterday by Professor William McCrea, of the Astronomy Centre at Sussex University.

Professor McCrea regards the conventional wisdom about the Earth's core as too convenient an explanation without much supporting evidence.

It means believing that some very unusual conditions prevailed at one stage in the early part of the creation of the planet, whereby just the iron mineral was completed in its formation and, effectively all of it was able to sink together to the centre of the Earth.



Finding out: A girl examines air and water with a jar in a fish tank. The British Association is starting a campaign to interest primary school children in science, including an awards scheme (Photograph: David Hodge).

has to have come from an interstellar gas cloud, consisting mostly of hydrogen and helium, but containing enough other materials to form the Earth, by collapsing into a planet-size body.

Such a "primordial" cloud would have had a radius of one fifth of the Earth's sun distance, and, he says, that mass would have been very reluctant to collapse under its own gravity.

However, if any "large" grains were contained in such a cloud, and by that he means particles slightly bigger than 100 microns (one micron is one thousandth of a millimetre), they would then have congregated at the centre of the cloud within a short span of time of about 10,000 years.

The size of the grains is important because they would have come under the

influence of the magnetic field of the Sun, forming near by, and thereby been attracted to each other to produce a massive core, with a gravitational pull strong enough to attract the remaining grains not magnetized, to form the outer mantle of the planet.

Another established theory to come under fire concerned the origins of comets, which have been believed to have come from a belt outside the solar system.

Dr Mark Bailey, of Sussex University, suggests another idea is that there is a swarm of comets much closer to the Sun, and that they are responsible for pulling the outer planets slightly out of position.

With comets so close, there would be no need to search for the tenth planet, which has long been thought to exist, to account for the irregularities in calculation.

Planet of iron

Beating drum for ear trumpet

Ear trumpet 'still effective hearing aid'

The old-fashioned ear trumpet is still one of the most effective aids for the hard of hearing, Mr Michael Martin, head of the scientific and technical department of the Royal National Institute for the Deaf, said yesterday.

Outlining progress in better electronic aids, he said that the disability often was not one of hearing what was said, but of understanding speech, even though it was loud enough. Significant developments in hearing aids were "few and far between".

In spite of intense research, the conventional hearing aid was still the only viable device generally available.

Medical research groups working on better designs for artificial arms and electronically-controlled hands faced a hurdle which was not, strictly speaking, a scientific one, Dr Ian Fletcher, senior medical officer at the Department of Health and Social Security's limb fitting centre in Roehampton, south-west London, told the meeting.

The finer art of forecasting

The Meteorological Office is developing a system for forecasting rainfall with far more local detail than has been possible before, combining satellite and radar observations with high-speed communications and computing.

The system called Frontiers - standing for Forecasting Rain Optimised using New Techniques of Interactively Enhanced Radar and Satellite - is beginning pre-operational trials

Module approaches to teaching mathematics

A complete rethink of what is taught in schools and how was advocated yesterday by Mr Bob Aitken, director of education in Coventry, in a speech to the education section in which he said the curriculum should be organized into modules or units rather than subjects.

Mathematics could be divided into some units concerned with the mathematics of everyday life, some units that were required for industry and commerce, and some units as a preparation for more advanced courses.

Mr Aitken said: "At 14 a student might do only the 'everyday life' units but the important features of the system is that at any stage he could progress by adding further units." Such a system would cut across the school/further education divide and would mean that education would no longer have to be provided in an institution.

There would have to be discussion about how long a unit should be but a convenient length might be 25 hours of teaching time, organized into five school periods each week or one week's continuous work.

Mr Aitken said that the present curriculum was not constructed to meet the educational aims considered desirable today. "An advantage of the proposed modular system is that it would allow a student to achieve a much better balance without offending against the integrity of subjects."

"It would probably lead to much tighter teaching since the learning objectives of each module would need to be specified, and it would facilitate change", he added.

Mr Chris Hayes, associate fellow at the Institute of Manpower Studies in London, told the section that secondary education had betrayed and disabled young people because it only met the needs of a minority.

"In its own terms it sends nearly half of all pupils into the real world marked by failure, without confidence or the skills necessary for a successful adult life."

In addition, most of the employment given to 16-year-olds was degrading and dehumanising and stifled their self-development, he said. "Industrial training is the handmaiden of this process, training people to perform tasks which exclude initiative and independent thought."

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How to get the measure of a leopard's spots

In spite of decades of observations of wildlife and squinting through microscopes, biologists cannot say how the leopard gets its spots, or, for that matter, the zebra stripes, the giraffe's mottled pattern, or the butterfly markings on its wings.

The question is a scientific minefield, but one into which Dr James Murray, of Oxford University, stepped yesterday.

He proposed a mechanism for the formation of those marks, which give some creatures an added beauty. Yet Dr Murray is not a biologist by first training; he is a mathematician, albeit one whose discoveries have been applied in medical research and other fields of biosciences.

His address was an illustration of how findings in the exciting and fast-growing subject of mathematical biology are being used to prise open doors to paths of investigation into areas of ignorance.

So, how does the leopard get its spots?

Dr Murray's mathematical answer boils down to a

measurement that is unique not just to a species but to individual animals, and he calls it the gamma-factor.

The measurement is derived from a complicated set of equations, which take into account the size of the species, the types of particle that are precursors to the formation of pigmentation of the skin, and the time taken before those particles are triggered into action while the animal is in the embryo stage. That switching-on of the particles varies between animals from weeks to months.

The equations that he presented are similar to some used to predict the formation of patterns of special chemical reactions that can be seen in a fat dish.

مكتبة الامم المتحدة

Social services told to show people their case records

By Pat Healy, Social Services Correspondent

People receiving help from the social services are to be given the right to see their case records, under guidance issued yesterday by the Department of Health and Social Services.

The guidance outlines decades of practice in which social workers compiled confidential files on elderly people, children, disabled people and mentally ill or handicapped people, in the expectation that their subject would never read them.

The department has been compelled to lay down rules on access to the files because a number of local councils have decided that they should be open.

A circular outlining how councils should make such files accessible asks them to set up safeguards to protect information from or about third parties.

The circular, which comes after a consultation paper issued last month, also wants safeguards to protect social workers' judgments and to consider the possibility that some people might be distressed by what they read in their files.

Elderly people, for example, might learn that they were less than welcome in their families, or children might discover that their parents had criminal records or a history of mental disorder.

Information provided by third parties, such as doctors,

teachers and the police, should not be disclosed without their permission. Records on children in care should not be made available to their parents without the child's consent, the circular says.

Mr Kenneth Clarke, Minister for Health, said yesterday that he shared the view that people receiving social services should be able to discover what was said about them. But some safeguards were essential to protect third parties, ensure effectiveness of social work and in rare cases protect the clients themselves.

Mr Peter Westland, social services secretary of the Association of Metropolitan Authorities, said yesterday that the circular was flawed because of the unnecessary haste with which it had been produced.

"We are in favour of improved access by clients to their files, but there has been very little consultation on how it should be done," he said. "If there is a heavy demand from clients to see their files, there will have to be some vetting and it could cost each local authority £20,000 a year to implement."

Because existing records have been compiled on the assumption that their contents would never be disclosed, they should not be made available under the new system unless the people who drew them up consent the circular says.

Senior people in social services departments should decide when sensitive information is to be made available or withheld.

Requests from children in care for access to their files should be treated in the same way as requests from adults; mentally ill or mentally handicapped people should be treated in the same way as other people unless they are incapable of managing their own affairs, the circular says.

But in most cases it will be necessary for a social worker to be present when files are opened, and in some cases clients may need special counselling to help them understand the contents of their records.

Robbery charge boys remanded

Three boys, all aged 15, accused of robbing a girl aged 12 of 8p in cash and a silver ring were remanded in local authority care yesterday for eight days at Balham Juvenile Court, south London.

They will appear before Lambeth Juvenile Court on September 2. Reporting restrictions were not lifted.



Emma Pashley and her brother Simon; both have heart conditions.

Operation for girl who asked for new heart

Emma Pashley, the girl aged eight who wrote to Father Christmas last year asking for a new heart, is to undergo a pioneering operation in the new year to correct her heart condition.

The girl, from Stockport, Greater Manchester, was given only an hour to live when she was born with her heart on the wrong side of her body and with the arteries transposed.

The day-long operation will take place at the Royal Liverpool Children's Hospital. Her mother, Mrs Susan Pashley, said yesterday: "We have got to give her the chance of life. The surgeons say that if she does not have the operation she will be in a wheelchair within 18 months and after that the outcome will be very bleak. We are told there is just over a 50 per cent chance of the operation being a success, and we don't really have a choice. Emma has deteriorated quite a lot in the last 12 months."

Mrs Pashley and her husband, a motor mechanic, hope the operation will be carried out next January or February. "The surgeons say Emma's condition is so complex they have not come across it before and the operation is unique because although the techniques are not new they have not been used to such an extent on someone so young", Mrs Pashley said.

The girl has already had two operations. She wrote to Santa Claus with her brother Simon, aged 11, who has an unrelated heart condition and has since been fitted with a pacemaker.

Muggeridge rebuffs abortion campaign

From Richard Ford, Belfast

The Irish Republic's Society for the Protection of Unborn Child, has suffered a setback with the cancellation of a tour by Mr Malcolm Muggeridge in support of an anti-abortion amendment he describes as "absolutely absurd".

The broadcaster and opponent of abortion has been inundated at his home in East Sussex by telephone calls from people, including Roman Catholic priests, in the republic trying to make him change his mind and retract his opposition to the amendment. He said yesterday: "I have not had one telephone conversation with people who have a grasp of the whole thing. If they are doing something like this, at least they could maintain a certain mental clarity on the issue."

Mr Muggeridge, aged 80 and a Roman Catholic, had been invited to take part in a whistle-stop tour by helicopter addressing rallies in favour of the constitutional amendment.

He said yesterday that when he saw the wording of the proposed amendment he decided he could not stand "shoulder-to-shoulder with people" and recommend the public to vote "yes" as he believed it was so riddled with qualifications that it would lead to the introduction of abortion in the republic.

"I cannot see how, if you are anti-abortion, you could vote for it. The amendment as worded will open the way to legalized abortion rather than prevent it," he said.

Mr Muggeridge said the republic had a law forbidding abortion and that the wording of the amendment contained "ridiculous phrases which qualified everything. It was a farce" which he could not defend because of the "absurd equivocations".

On September 7 the republic will vote on the eighth amendment to the Constitution which reads: "The state acknowledges the right to life of the unborn and with due regard to the equal right to life of the mother, guarantees in its law to respect and, as far as practicable, by its laws to vindicate that right."

Doctors and lawyers' organizations, the Irish Farmers Association, political parties and families have been split. As polling day approaches, the campaign is plunging to new depths of bitterness.

The republic's Minister for Finance, Mr Alan Dukes, was accused of "consorting with murderers" when he became the first senior minister to speak against the proposal, saying he could not "in conscience" support the amendment.

Police count cost of hippy trail

A two-week operation by Norfolk police to control a "peace" police convoy of hippies travelling to their annual camp in Norwich was yesterday estimated unofficially to have cost £300,000.

The police made 65 arrests, 52 of them for alleged drug offences, and evicted the hippies from land owned by the University of East Anglia. The campers had rejected an offer of an "official" site near a rubbish tip.

A year ago damage was caused in nine counties as the "peace" people's convoy of coaches, lorries and caravans made its way from Bristol to Norwich.

At that time the Norfolk police made few arrests and policing costs totalled £5,000.

The cost of the operation this year is expected to be higher than the bill for policing Norwich City football matches for a whole season.

Rapist who fled bail is jailed

An American air force warehouse manager was jailed for three and a half years yesterday after a jury at the Central Criminal Court found him guilty of raping a German translator, aged 22, in Chelsea, west London in November 1978.

Mini is 24

The Mini, Britain's most famous small car, celebrates its twenty-fourth birthday today. Almost five million of the cars have been produced since the Mini-Minor was launched in 1959 and BL plant at Longbridge, Birmingham, still turns out more than 1,000 a week.

Bears shot

Two bears were shot dead by police marksmen yesterday after they escaped into the grounds at the zoological gardens in Hotham Park, Bognor Regis, Sussex.

Injured Briton held in Saudi jail 'will be ill permanently'

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Mr Keith Carmichael, the British businessman held in Saudi Arabia without trial since 1981, is expected to suffer for the rest of his life from the effect of injuries received while in custody.

His medical report, released to The Times yesterday by the National Council for the Welfare of Prisoners Abroad, says: "We think this patient has a severe malformation of the spine which will, in his future life, restrict his activities quite drastically."

The report, signed by Dr E. F. Bettendorff, a specialist in traumatology at the Security Forces Hospital of the Saudi Arabian Ministry of the Interior, says that Mr Carmichael should be given painkillers and have permission to do physical exercises in prison to strengthen muscles to prevent further persistent damage.

The report of the examination, which was carried out at the request of the British Embassy, says that in the middle of August 1982, Mr Carmichael suffered swelling, especially in the left knee and ankle. Mr Carmichael alleges that he was beaten on the soles of his feet and mistreated by prison guards.

The report says that, as he was on his way to Shumaisy Hospital for treatment, the car in which he was travelling went over bumps in the road at very high speed. "The patient has sudden terrific pain in his back and X-rays showed a compression fracture for which he was treated in Shumaisy Hospital for five weeks. After removal of the plaster he was returned to prison."

When examined at the request of the British Embassy he had severe pains in the back, especially when sitting. "Examination now shows general atrophy of all muscles."

Mr Carmichael wrote to The Times saying he was on hunger strike, which he has since ended, to draw attention to his plight. His contracting company, Saeem International, collapsed with debts alleged by Saudi authorities to total almost £1m. Saudi companies are among those said to be owed money, which is sufficient reason under Saudi law for his detention unless creditors waive their claims.

Our Medical Correspondent says of the hospital report, which gives details of Mr Carmichael's injury, that the vertebrae had become compressed and the nerve leaving the spinal chord trapped. Sensory nerves leading to the thighs were affected by damage inflicted on the backbone.

The weight-bearing portion of the backbone had been compressed by 40 per cent of its normal height, which would reduce Mr Carmichael's height by about one-eighth of an inch.

He would be likely to develop secondary osteoarthritis symptoms, similar to those of a slipped disc, and would also have chronic low-grade backache, with intermittent attacks of pain leading to his thighs. Wasting of the muscles in the front of his thighs would also be likely.

Shuttle expected to draw callers

By Bill Johnstone, Electronics Correspondent

British Telecom expects a substantial increase in telephone traffic next Tuesday when subscribers dial to over-hear communications between the newly-launched space shuttle and its control centre in Houston, Texas.

More than £100,000 was spent by British Telecom on the shuttle, the last two shuttle flights in April this year and last August. Next week's flight takes off and lands at night, for the first time.

The shuttle, the eighth to be launched by the United States, is expected to take off at about 6.30 am BST. Telephone callers wanting to dial the shuttle service can do so from two hours before the take-off.

In the past there has only been voice communication between the space craft and earth for 20 per cent of each orbit but that is expected to be improved by a new communication satellite launched last June. A sister satellite, to be launched next spring, will give continuous voice communication.

Next week's mission is due to last until September 5. Bad weather will delay the launch.

The crew members are Richard Truly, the commander, Dan Brandenstein, the co-pilot and three mission specialists: Dale Gardner, Bill Thornton and Guion Bluford.

Shuttle number: 010-1-307-410-6272.

Finance firm chief jailed for fraud

A finance company chairman, Robert Millage, lived in a "make-believe world of self-delusion" when he offered firms cash loans at low interest rates, the Central Criminal Court in London was told yesterday.

After only five months trading his company collapsed with debts of £124,000 without completing a single transaction and he had traded while an undischarged bankrupt, the court heard.

Millage, aged 42, of Abbey Close, Church Hill, Redditch, Hereford and Worcestershire, was jailed for three years for fraudulent trading, obtaining £40,500 in loans from a bank and building society, and making false statements in 1966. He was banned from managing a company for five years.

Millage, who pleaded not guilty, claimed he had "lost his memory" after being stabbed by his wife in 1963, the year he was made bankrupt. He said that as the result of selective amnesia he could not remember the proceedings of being made bankrupt.



Kidney patients 'should threaten legal action'

Kidney patients who are refused dialysis treatment because their health authority has insufficient funds should threaten legal action, says Dr Roger Gabriel, a London-based kidney unit expert.

He makes his suggestion in the latest issue of the family doctors' magazine, *Current Practice*, saying why 75 per cent of the 3,000 Britons who suffer end-stage renal failure every year are refused treatment and what patients can do about it.

He writes: "There is one final plea that could be tried if a renal unit were willing to dialyse a specific patient but did not have the funds."

"The patient would be informed of the situation. His or her spouse would threaten the district or regional health authority (health board in Scotland) via his solicitor that legal action would be instituted if he died of untreated renal failure. I expect a health authority would rapidly find money in such circumstances."

Yesterday Dr Gabriel, a renal physician at St Mary's and St Charles' Hospitals, said he knew of one successful case last year in the Birmingham area.

New picture of missing wife

The police have released a new photograph (above) of Mrs Diane Jones, the missing wife of Dr Robert Jones, village doctor at Coggeshall, Essex.

They believe it shows Mrs Jones, aged 35, as she looked on the night she vanished a month ago. Taken recently by a friend, it shows her with her hair dyed and bobbed in a page-boy style.

Butter makers hit back with soft spread

A new soft butter which can be spread straight from the fridge is to be launched by the Milk Marketing Board.

The development is the latest round in the fight between margarine and butter producers. The margarine companies currently sell about 100,000 tons more in Britain each year than the butter companies.

The new product is designed to overcome complaints that butter is difficult to use straight from the fridge. It will be launched by Dairy Crest, the MMB's commercial arm, but the board would not disclose details of the launch yesterday.

It is understood that the product will not be labelled butter because of the process used to keep it soft. But it will be a full fat spread close in character to ordinary butter.

Youth remanded on Peak murder charge

A youth was remanded in custody for six days yesterday accused of murdering Susan Renhard, aged 21, in the Derbyshire Peak District.

A crowd of more than 150 jeered and shouted abuse as detectives led Norman Smith, aged 17, a student, into High Peak magistrates' court at Buxton, Derbyshire. His head was covered by a grey blanket.

The hearing lasted 90 seconds. Mr Smith's solicitor, Mr Timothy Oddy, made no application for bail.

Mr Smith, of Buxton Road, Castleton, Derbyshire, was driven away in a police car. Miss Renhard, from West Hagley, near Stourbridge, West Midlands, was a student at Manchester Polytechnic. She was found dead at Cave Dale, near Castleton, in June.

Falkland's terms for Argentine trade

By John Withrow

Falkland Islanders would be prepared to accept renewed air and trade links with Argentina provided there was no challenge to British sovereignty, two of the islands' elected councillors said yesterday.

Mr John Blake, who was in London on his way to a United Nations debate in New York on the Falklands, said there would be some opposition but most people accepted normalisation of relations was inevitable once a formal end to hostilities had been agreed.

"We are going to have to accept one or two things we are not very keen on," Mr Blake said. Before last year's conflict he and other farmers exported mutton to the mainland and there were plans to export beef. In return Argentina supplied fuel and timber, which now has to be brought in via Ascension Island.

One advantage such renewed links would be that Argentina would no longer have a monopoly of air links after building of an airfield 35 miles from Port Stanley.

Mr Cheek painted a grim picture of working conditions for the 1,500 men likely to be involved in the airfield project, likening it to the isolation of construction work in the Sahara desert.

No road links the airfield site to Port Stanley and in winter it could take a day by Land-Rover to reach the capital. As a result, Mr Cheek thought, most of the workers would remain at the site, pursuing such leisure activities as fishing and bird-watching.

The two men said water and electricity supplies were still under strain in Port Stanley. A number of people wanting to emigrate to the islands had been turned away because of a shortage of housing.

Concern over an Argentine attack had declined and the most people anticipated were pinprick raids or a clash between RAF Phantoms and Argentine aircraft straying into the 150-mile air zone.

The garrison of several thousand troops had caused few difficulties for the 1,600 islanders.

Three face betting coup trial

From our Correspondent, Hull

Three men were committed for trial to York Crown Court at Hull yesterday on a conspiracy charges arising out of an alleged betting coup involving switching racehorses at Leicester in March last year.

The accused, whose bail was renewed, were Mr Kenneth Richardson, aged 45, a company executive of Jubilee House, Hutton, near Humber-side Driffield, Mr Colin Mathison, aged 44, a company director of Wild View North, And Mr Peter Dobby, aged 37, a horse-box driver of Hazel Close, both in Driffield.

They were jointly charged with dishonestly conspiring together and with others to cheat and defraud people willing to bet or to take bets, on the Knighton Autumn Stakes, a race for two-year-olds, on March 29 last year at Leicester, and on other races by falsely representing that a horse entered under the name of Flockton Grey, which won the Leicester race at 20-1, whereas the horse entered in the race and intended for other races was a three-year-old named Good Hand or some other name.

Mr Leslie Bell, for the prosecution, withdrew all other charges made against the accused at previous court appearances. He also asked that a High Court judge try the case at the Crown Court.

Club destroyed

The Regnum Club in Chichester, West Sussex, a listed eighteenth century building, was destroyed by fire early yesterday morning.

Remand prisoner 'fears for treatment'

From Our Correspondent, Liverpool

A solicitor told magistrates in Birkenhead, Merseyside, yesterday that he was unwilling to have his client committed for trial because the man feared his requests for medical treatment would be forgotten if he did not appear to be remanded.

Mr Paul Malone, aged 38, hurt his face badly when he fell against a radiator on August 3 while in custody at Risley Remand Centre. Since then, his solicitor, Mr Robert Broudie, has made repeated requests that he be given proper medical treatment.

Doctors brought in by Mr Malone's family have examined him at Risley and said that unless he receives urgent treatment for a fracture he could be permanently disfigured.

Last week magistrates said they were not satisfied with a statement from Risley saying that adequate treatment had already been given. They agreed to write to the Home Office demanding a further investigation. Yesterday the clerk to the court told them no reply had been received.

Yesterday Mr Broudie asked the court to have one of the remand centre's senior officials or doctors brought before it to explain the situation. This request was refused and Mr Malone was remanded in custody for a further seven days until his commitment on September 1.

Mr Malone, of no fixed address, stood in the dock with a swollen left cheek and a black eye. Medical reports have said he has a broken nose and a bruised jaw and his left cheek is fractured in four places. He has been in custody for nine months facing 23 charges including burglary, obtaining money by deception and impersonating a police officer.

13 injured in coach crash

Thirteen people were injured yesterday when a National Express coach collided with a 30-ton lorry, at Cleve, near Bristol.

Four of the injured were detained in hospital, the rest were allowed home after treatment, police said.

The coach, which had been travelling from Paignton in Devon, to York, had most of its offside ripped out. It was carrying 47 passengers, mostly holidaymakers.

The crash is the seventh serious accident involving coaches in Britain since May. Because of public concern the Department of Transport is considering possible changes in the speed limits of coaches. Coach speeds on motorways are currently being monitored and Mrs Lynda Chalker, Under-Secretary of State at the Department of Transport, will be given the results next month.

Mr Alan Thomas, of Abingdon, Oxford, who was killed in a coach crash in 1978, was a passenger in the National Express coach involved in the accident. He was travelling from Paignton to York. Mr Thomas was 47 years old. He was a member of the National Express staff and was on duty when the crash occurred. He was travelling with his wife and two children. The coach was carrying 47 passengers, mostly holidaymakers.

Miner dies

Mr Paul Lym, aged 18, a miner, of Limby, Nottinghamshire, died yesterday, a day after suffering internal injuries when he was trapped under a conveyor belt at Babbington Colliery, Nottingham.

East and West getting together

Angry delegates stage sit-in over Malta at Madrid conference

From Richard Wigg, Madrid

Spain announced yesterday that it is going ahead with invitations to the foreign ministers of the 35 nations at the European Security Review Conference to come for a major East-West gathering here early next month, regardless of Malta still pursuing obstructionist tactics.

Señor Fernando Moran, the Spanish Foreign Minister, is anxious for Madrid to be the scene between September 7 and 9 of an encounter between Mr George Shultz, the US Secretary of State, and Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet Minister.

The foreign ministers' gathering, diplomats explained, would be held technically outside the security conference framework with invitations issued by Spain through the normal diplomatic channels.

Malta has obliged the 34 Western, Communist and neutral countries to adopt this course by refusing to join in the consensus on a 35-page final document dealing with East-West relations which everyone else accepted on July 15.

A formal concluding session of the almost three-year long Madrid meeting would have to be held later.

The disruptive tactics of the Maltese Government reached their nadir yesterday, visibly angering the heads of all the other delegations.

The delegates, who had flown in from their capitals hoping Malta would finally relent, found themselves confronted by a Maltese junior diplomat who simply told them he had no instructions.

When Mr Mario Buttingliog appealed for an adjournment until later in the day when he said Mr Evaristo Saliba, Malta's chief delegate, was due to reach Madrid, all the delegates refused him point blank and began a kind of sit-in.

"We are not accepting that our procedures at this conference should be dictated by Malta," Sir Anthony Williams, the chief British delegate said later. Like other envoys, he left a deputy closeted in silence with the Maltese junior diplomat in a conference room of a big Madrid hotel.

Mr Max Kampelman, the chief United States delegate, left swiftly, indicating through aides an intention to go back to Washington.

"We are sitting it out, taking turns to go to the men's room or to the ladies," was how Dr

Joerg Kasl, of West Germany, described the delegates' tactics.

Two of the largest available ensembles, the typical wheel-shaped sweet cakes from Majorca, were taken in for snacks to underline their will to sit it out. Several emerged to express barely diplomatic views over Malta's wisdom in alienating any remaining disposition to negotiate a compromise over its demands.

These are that the Mediterranean region's security problems should be treated on the same level as those of Europe by the 35 nations, but no other delegation really wants to overload the already difficult East-West relationship with the problems of the Middle East.

Well past lunch hour, and with their anger subsiding, the delegates decided to relent and to adjourn and await the chief Maltese delegate.

But when Mr Saliba appeared it was only to reject a proposal by Switzerland to hold the next meeting on the day before the foreign ministers are due to arrive, and to demand reconsideration of Malta's wants.

Delegates were still in conference after hours of discussions last night.

US signs Moscow grain deal

From Richard Owen, Moscow

Mr John Block, the American Agriculture Secretary, yesterday met Mr Geidar Aliyev, the Soviet Deputy Prime Minister, in what is seen as a further move towards easing Soviet-American relations.

Mr Block described the talks as "constructive, useful and friendly", although some diplomats were sceptical, pointing out that the Kremlin and the White House remained at daggers drawn. Mr Block agreed there was "more work to be done".

Earlier, Mr Block had signed a new grain agreement providing for an increase in American grain supplies over the next five years. He described this as a very important occasion. Mr Nikolai Patolichev, the Soviet Foreign Trade Minister, who signed on behalf of Russia, nodded and said "yes".

It was not the most earth shattering exchange between politicians of East and West but it did mark a slight thaw in the distinctly chilly relations between Moscow and the Reagan Administration. Mr Block is the most senior administration official to visit here since the funeral of President Brezhnev last November.

The meeting with Mr Aliyev, who is a full Politburo member, is seen as a sign that both sides are using the visit to explore a political rapprochement, perhaps eventually leading to an Andropov-Reagan summit. The meeting was squeezed into what amounted to a one and a half day visit.

Mr Block leaves Moscow this morning. He said on arrival on Wednesday that the new grain agreement not only marked a return to more normal trading relations but also showed that Russia and America could work

together on "issues of mutual significance".

At a press conference Mr Block said the agreement - valued at \$2 billion (£1.3 billion) a year - had put an "emphatic end to a very difficult chapter in our grain trading relations". Under the agreement the Russians will buy a minimum of nine million tonnes.

The American share of Soviet grain imports, which slumped to 20 per cent after the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan and the ensuing grain embargo, is now expected to rise to 40 per cent.

Diplomats said, however, that it would not approach the 76 per cent share enjoyed by Washington before 1979, and added that Afghanistan remained one of several stumbling blocks.

Mr Block's visit has received

no publicity in the Soviet media, while a fierce anti-American propaganda campaign has continued unabated. *Sovetskaya Rossiya* yesterday attacked a range of American policies, describing Washington's stand on arms control as "double faced".

Tass, taking a less enthusiastic line than Mr Block, described his meeting with Mr Aliyev as "businesslike".

The agency described the deal as an "agreement on trade in some agricultural commodities", avoiding all reference to Russian grain imports. It said Mr Block and Mr Aliyev expressed the hope that the agreement would "contribute to the development of mutually beneficial trade and economic cooperation" and did not suggest it had wider political significance.



Moscow mirth: Mr Block, left, and Mr Patolichev after the signing of the grain agreement.

East Germans given missile message

From Michael Binyon, Bonn

Herr Egon Bahr, the Social Democratic disarmament expert, yesterday held talks in East Berlin with Herr Oskar Fischer, the East German Foreign Minister, continuing the top level discussions he has been having there about the deployment of new Nato missiles in West Germany.

On Wednesday Herr Erich Honecker, the East German leader, gave him an unusually blunt warning that if West Germany went ahead with deployment, the Soviet Union would be "forced to station more medium-range missiles."

He also said that it would be

necessary to deploy effective kinds of operative-tactical missiles with a longer range in forward positions in Warsaw Pact countries.

His warning was prominently displayed in East German newspapers yesterday. He also told Herr Bahr that the missiles the Russians would put in East Germany would reach their targets more quickly than the Pershings aimed at Moscow. But he added that an arms agreement in Geneva was still possible.

The Christian-Social Union, whose leader Herr Franz Josef Strauss met Herr Honecker on a

controversial visit last month, criticized the East German leader's remarks as being of "little help". He said that the threatened deployment in the East raised the question whether the Soviet side was seriously interested in disarmament.

During his visit, Herr Bahr also discussed the DM100m (£250m) West German credit to East Berlin. The two countries' close economic links were further underlined earlier this week by West German trade figures for the first half of 1983, which showed that trade with East Germany rose by 16 per cent over last year.

Bonn alarm at 'Times' view on Rhine army

From Our Own Correspondent, Bonn

The debate on the Rhine Army started by *The Times* is being followed closely in Bonn by politicians and military leaders who have expressed alarm at the idea of Britain's handing over responsibility for the defence of West Germany's eastern frontier to a German unit.

The conservative newspaper, *Die Welt*, echoing the views of senior officials in Chancellor Kohl's Government, said that the leading article published in *The Times* on August 17 could have "fatal consequences" if the British Government were to follow up such proposals.

The Times believed that Belgium and The Netherlands would want to follow Britain's lead in leaving the defence of forward positions in Germany to the Bundeswehr. The relevant authorities in Bonn are said to know very well that government circles in Brussels

and The Hague were just waiting for moves in this direction which they could follow. Such a development would be viewed with alarm here.

Die Welt said that the suggestions for a reduced Rhine Army ran into considerable scepticism here. What *The Times* considered as tactical rigidity was, for German politicians and military, the kernel of Nato's aims - ensuring that without widespread operations on the territory of the Warsaw Pact countries, possible attack from the East were stopped as close as possible to the inner-German frontier. This was possible with the forces as they now existed.

The Germans have also been hurt by suggestions that they play the role of only a junior partner in Nato.



Two die in Berlin consulate blast

All that remained of the Maison de France on West Berlin's fashionable Kurfürstendamm yesterday after an explosion that killed two people and injured 23. The building housed the French Consulate as well as a cinema which was empty at the time.

An anonymous telephone caller to

Agence France-Presse said the Armenian Secret Army for the Liberation of Armenia (Asala) was responsible.

West Berlin police said the two men who died and 17 of those hurt were Germans. Two French citizens were among the injured.

The blast was the first reported

instance of Asala terrorist activity in West Germany. The group had given a warning that it would strike at French interests if France did not release the Armenians arrested after a bomb attack at Orly airport in Paris last month that killed eight people and injured 55.

The Namibia equation

Angola pessimistic on UN mission

From Richard Dowden, Luanda

No one in the Angolan capital has a drop of optimism to sweeten the arrival of Señor Javier Pérez de Cuellar, the United Nations Secretary-General, who flies in from South Africa today.

Officially he is to discuss the implementation of Resolution No 435 of the United Nations which aims to bring South-West Africa (Namibia) to independence. However, the Angolans and the South-West African People's Organization (Swapo), which has been fighting the South Africans for 17 years, perceive the details of the UN plan as purely academic.

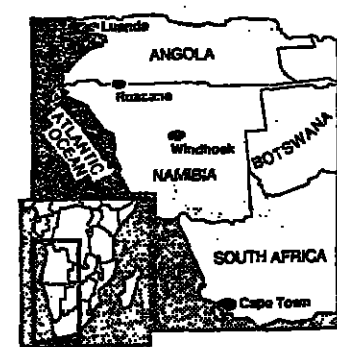
As they see it, there has been no decision by the South African's to withdraw from Namibia. Furthermore, any of the details of the UN plan could be made into big issues by South Africa in an attempt to gain more time.

The Angolans point to the build-up of South African forces in northern Namibia and southern Angola and are expecting air attacks by the South Africans as soon as Señor de Cuellar leaves tomorrow. They also recall the battle of Cangabana last week, in which South African forces apparently intervened in support of an attack on the town, by Unita, the South African backed insurgents, forcing the Angolan Government forces to withdraw.

Lieutenant-Colonel Ngonzo,

the head of military intelligence in the region, said on Wednesday that the attack on Cangabana had been made to coincide with Señor de Cuellar's visit "so that the South Africans can present Unita as part of the Namibia equation".

The South Africans are demanding the withdrawal of



Cuban troops from Angola - said to number about 20,000 - as part of an agreement on Namibian independence, but the Angolan Government appears to be standing firm on this.

In a speech to the country on Tuesday, President Eduardo dos Santos put the attacks from South Africa in an East-West context, accusing the United States of backing South Africa. Some diplomatic sources here have interpreted this as a plea for more support for Angola

from the Soviet Union and other communist countries.

JOHANNESBURG: Señor de Cuellar, saw for himself yesterday why the lights burn dimly in South-West Africa (Ray Kennedy writes). He was escorted over the massive hydro-electric power station at Ruacana, on the border with Angola, which was designed to light up the whole of the territory and a large part of southern Angola.

The Angolan Government refuses to open sluices on the Cunene river further upstream which means that the power station can operate only at limited capacity. The transmission lines, also, are frequent targets for sabotage by Swapo guerrillas infiltrating from bases in southern Angola.

The Secretary-General, who arrived in Windhoek, the capital of South West Africa yesterday spoke of his personal satisfaction at being able "to familiarize myself with the situation in this country".

He spent the rest of the day getting acquainted with the complex internal political situation of a country with barely one million people but several dozen political parties.

Mr Andreas Shipanga, former senior political official in the Swapo hierarchy and now leader of the rival Swapo-Democrats based in Windhoek, was the first to meet Señor Cuellar.

Swiss turn palace in fortress

From Alan McGregor, Geneva

Some of the more cautious international civil servants among the 2,500 at the UN Palais des Nations complex have thought it advisable to buy individual "all events" insurance cover for the duration of the international conference on Palestine being held there from Monday until September 7. Others are conveniently going on holiday.

Those remaining at their desks in the 14-storey conference building have protested at some emergency staircases being closed for security reasons.

Apprehension has become apparent at the spectacle of the UN complex, which has a perimeter of about two and a half miles, being converted by the Swiss Army into a fortress surrounded by barbed wire and barriers, adjoining roads being closed or restricted and nearby schools closed until the second week of September.

A no-go area between the barriers is surveyed by soldiers in camouflage uniforms, with orders to shoot at any intruder disregarding a single command to halt. The two UN buildings are guarded by an augmented force of UN security men, both uniformed and plain clothes all linked by radio.

The other main focus of security is the airport. About a dozen crossing points along the French frontier are closed, with the military patrolling all along its length.

Security precautions are officially described as the most extensive Geneva has ever seen, with 2,000 soldiers from two tank battalions and an artillery company, plus 600 police, half of them detached from other cantons - leaving as many Geneva police again for normal duties.

Salvador military shoot Italian at roadblock

San Salvador (Reuters) -

Salvadoran soldiers shot and killed an Italian engineer when he apparently tried to break through an army road block.

Military officials and spokesman for CEL, the state-owned electricity company, said Signor Vittorio Andreotti, aged 33, was killed and another person injured at the road block on the Quebrada Seca bridge, 50 miles east of the capital.

Colonel Francisco Antonio Moran, CEL's president, said that Signor Andreotti, who worked for a company called Cogefar with a dozen Swiss and Italian engineers on a hydroelectric plant in San Vicente province, had left the dam site around midnight on Tuesday.

Soldiers opened fire when Signor Andreotti refused to heed their instructions to halt, Colonel Moran said, adding that Cogefar, contracted by the El Salvador Government to build the plant did not blame the soldiers. An Italian embassy spokesman refused to comment.

The dam is financed by the World Bank and will open next month.

Meanwhile El Salvador's Roman Catholic bishops have accused the country's legislators of passing a new constitution without proper evaluation of its provisions and at a time of "no real freedom" for conscientious action.

The charge came in a statement by the episcopal conference that said the Constituent Assembly was following party lines in passing the draft constitution.

GUATEMALA: President Mejia Victores of Guatemala said in his first news conference since taking power two weeks ago that he would retain a new tax imposed by his predecessor (Reuters reports).

The move surprised some diplomats, who had regarded the new value-added tax as one of the main reasons for the coup.

Seven killed in Kenya plane crash

Nairobi (AP) Seven people - four West Germans, two Italians and a Dutch national - were killed when their small aircraft crashed in the Ingilo Hills near the Tanzanian border, about 85 miles south of here.

The accident occurred on Monday but only fragmented reports had been received until yesterday. There were no survivors.

The Italians were identified as Signor Maurizio Mauro, aged 50, the pilot and owner, and his 15-year-old son, Riccardo. The four West Germans were stewardesses of the charter airline, Condor, a subsidiary of Lufthansa. The Dutch national was the husband of one of the stewardesses.

Rain caused school tragedy

Taipei (Reuters) - A provisional education commissioner has offered to resign after 27 girls were killed and 84 injured when a school ceiling collapsed at Feng Yuan near here.

An inquiry has been ordered into the accident, apparently caused by water accumulation on the roof after days of heavy rain.

Baby expelled

Rome (AP) - Italy has expelled a two-month-old Venezuelan girl who spent seven days in a Rome airport transit lounge after a legal tangle over her adoption. She was put on board a flight for Caracas, accompanied by a childless Sicilian couple who had brought her to Rome last week.

Bride's suicide

Delhi (AFP) - A teenage bride burnt herself to death, saying that her in-laws had refused her food as part of pressure tactics to force her father to increase her dowry. It was the latest in a long series of "dowry deaths".

Hijack appeal

Seoul (Reuters) - South Korean prosecutors are appealing for heavier sentences on six Chinese given six years for hijacking a Chinese airliner to Seoul in May. China has said the sentences are too lenient.

Colombo visitor

Colombo - Mr Gopalaswami Parthasarathy, the Indian special envoy, arrived in Sri Lanka yesterday for discussions with President Jayewardene after the recent attacks on Tamils.

Burma riot

Rangoon (AP) - Muslims' houses, shops and mosques were destroyed in Yandooon, 50 miles east of the Burmese capital, after a quarrel between a Muslim medicine vendor and his Buddhist customers.

Hit reprieved

Pretoria (AFP) - A ten-year ban on the film and soundtrack of Andrew Lloyd Webber's musical hit, *Jesu Christ Superstar*, has been lifted by the South African censors.

Train deaths

Bangkok (AFP) - Eight people were killed and nine seriously injured in a train crash near Chumphon, 275 miles south of here.

Factory blast

Rome (AFP) - An explosion destroyed a fireworks factory in Borgorose, 60 miles north of here, killing five people. A sixth person was reported missing.

China in space

Peking (Reuters) - An experimental Chinese satellite has returned to Earth after a successful five-day mission.

Leg appeal

Peking (Reuters) - A Chinese hosiery factory is marketing scented stockings. "In addition to being transparent, soft and elastic, they have a fragrance which will last through at least 10 washings," according to the *Peking Daily*.

Uganda leaders conclude \$7m pact in Russia

By Henry Stanhope, Diplomatic Correspondent

Four Uganda government ministers passed through London yesterday after concluding deals worth about £4.5m in Moscow.

They met a number of commercial contacts while in Britain, and appealed for investors to return to Kampala.

Dr Luwuliza Kirunda, the Minister of Internal Affairs and leader of the delegation, said that security was now comparable with that in any other African country at a similar stage of development.

The Soviet Union had agreed to grant \$5m worth of credits for a textile mill which had been started with Soviet help in the 1960s, and a school for agricultural technicians.

The Russians also promised to write off \$2m worth of debt

Insults fly as Cameroon chiefs wrangle

Paris (AFP) - The former Cameroonian President Mr Ahmadou Ahidjo renewed his attack on the protégé he put in power 10 months ago, President Paul Biya, calling him a "weakling, a swindler" and a "hypocrite".

Speaking from his residence in the south of France, he said that he had refused a recent demand by Mr Biya that he should resign as head of the ruling Cameroon National Union which he retained when he stepped down after 22 years as President last year.

Mr Biya announced earlier this week that he had smashed a plot to overthrow him.

Mr Ahidjo denied accusations by Cameroonian exiles in France that he had stolen some \$2,500m (£1,600m) of state funds during his time in power and that he was planning to use it to recapture power.

Bonn alarm at 'Times' view on Rhine army

From Our Own Correspondent, Bonn

The debate on the Rhine Army started by *The Times* is being followed closely in Bonn by politicians and military leaders who have expressed alarm at the idea of Britain's handing over responsibility for the defence of West Germany's eastern frontier to a German unit.

The conservative newspaper, *Die Welt*, echoing the views of senior officials in Chancellor Kohl's Government, said that the leading article published in *The Times* on August 17 could have "fatal consequences" if the British Government were to follow up such proposals.

The Times believed that Belgium and The Netherlands would want to follow Britain's lead in leaving the defence of forward positions in Germany to the Bundeswehr. The relevant authorities in Bonn are said to know very well that government circles in Brussels

and The Hague were just waiting for moves in this direction which they could follow. Such a development would be viewed with alarm here.

Die Welt said that the suggestions for a reduced Rhine Army ran into considerable scepticism here. What *The Times* considered as tactical rigidity was, for German politicians and military, the kernel of Nato's aims - ensuring that without widespread operations on the territory of the Warsaw Pact countries, possible attack from the East were stopped as close as possible to the inner-German frontier. This was possible with the forces as they now existed.

The Germans have also been hurt by suggestions that they play the role of only a junior partner in Nato.

**From W. P. Reeves
Wellington**

NATIONAL SAVINGS CERTIFICATES. THE NEW 26TH ISSUE.

SPECTRUM

20 years after Martin Luther King's stirring speech, American blacks are still fighting for equality. Reaganomics means hard times for many and the black protest is growing, writes Trevor Fishlock

Dreaming that dream

New York

The words echoed over Washington, and America beyond, sounding the end of one age and the beginning of another.

"I have a dream..." It was August 28, 1963. Martin Luther King stood under the Lincoln Memorial and cried out in impassioned oratory to the quarter of a million people who had gathered on the capital.

"I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the colour of their skin but by the content of their character." Two weeks later whites bombed a black church in Alabama and killed four little children. There was to be more bloodshed and cruelty as Americans bent themselves to the unfinished business of the Civil War.

There followed the frenzied last stand of white supremacists, black fury and burning cities, and the murder of Martin Luther King himself five years after the declaration of his dream.

And in time the moderate civil rights movement, in which blacks linked hands with whites to sing "We Shall Overcome", began to wither as disillusioned blacks concluded it was better to put an angry chin than offer a conciliatory cheek.

Dr King's oration at the Lincoln Memorial marked the peak of a movement acceptable to liberals for its nobility of purpose. But it also foretold that "whirlwinds of revolt" would go on shaking the United States - and they did. So while the speech was inspiring, it was also a sombre warning.

White liberals in the civil rights crusade found, like negroes, that slaying diabolical southern dragons was not enough, that there were no easy solutions. They were perplexed and frightened by the bitterness of black revolt.

And blacks exposed the painful truth that racism was not just southern: it was American. Prejudice and hypocrisy flourished in the North, too.

The black grievance slid from stage centre as Vietnam dominated national consciousness in the 1970s. Today it is returning to prominence. Blacks know that much of Martin Luther King's dream remains a long way from realization, and they are growing restless for a fuller economic share.

The campaign of the 1960s wrought profound changes. The civil rights and voting rights acts were notable advances, bought with blood and suffering. The South today is astonished by what has been accomplished in the 20 years since Dr King said he dreamed that the children of slaves and slave owners would sit together.

But blacks see that far from being the end of the struggle the 1960s movement was an episode. It brought the deep South, at last, into the late twentieth century and properly into the United States, but its achievements were deceptive.

Blacks note with dismay that they are still far behind, hobbled by intractable difficulties, inequalities and discrimination. In a study two years ago, black academics decided "it is difficult to be optimistic about the future of blacks in American society".

The depth of frustration was illustrated recently by Leontina McClain, a journalist on the *Chicago Tribune*, in a raging article that seemed empty of hope, under the headline "How Chicago Taught Me to Hate Whites". She described as a race war the election this summer in which Harold Washington became the city's first black mayor.

The article said: "(On the radio it was) the blacks this, the blacks that, the blacks, the blacks... the words held out like a foul-smelling sock transported at the end of an arm."

"So many whites had never considered that blacks could do much. My white colleagues realized, perhaps for the first time, that I was one of 'them'. I was suddenly threatening. I have been unprepared for the silence with which colleagues greeted Washington's nomination."

"Solving racial problems will take more than living and going to school together and all those laudable and naive goals I defend. This affair has robbed me of my innate black hope of true integration. No white will be trusted again by the innermost me."

Bishop H. N. Brookins, a leading Los Angeles churchman, said to me: "After all these years white Americans do not really know us, do not know how diverse we are. I feel frustrated that we have not come far enough, have not been able to make white Americans understand our desire to be part of the whole."

"There is still resistance to black progress. White conservatives play on fears that black advance is at white expense. Racial division is the number one problem. The job market is still segregated and the black man finds himself running to remain in the same place."

Many of America's 27 million blacks are economically mired, lacking bootstraps to pull on. Twenty years ago blacks earned, on average, 55 per cent as much as whites. They still do. But a better measure of economic standing is wealth, and average black wealth is only 36 per cent that of white. More blacks are below the poverty line than at the end of the 1960s.

Unemployment is twice as high among blacks as among whites. Only 55 per cent of black men are working, compared with 74 per cent 20 years ago. Blacks feel bitter because they have suffered severely under President Reagan's economic regime. There is a welfare safety net, but the poor have been hurt by cuts in government spending, and for many blacks Reaganomics spells discrimination and hard times.

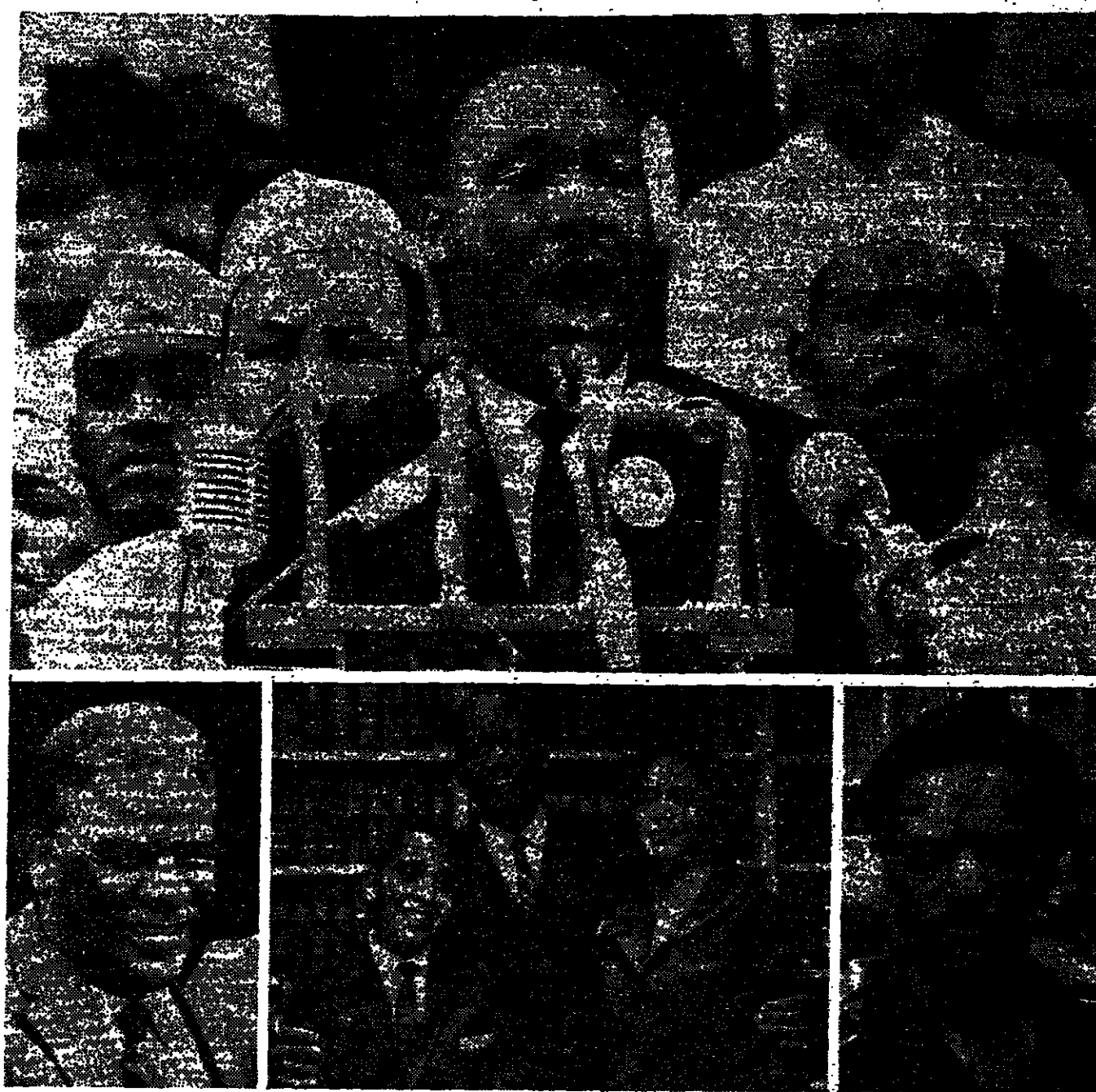
Life is harder for blacks. They have a shorter lifespan than whites, higher rates of infant mortality, divorce, separation and mental illness. Almost half of black 17-year-olds are illiterate. Bigotry and fear help to push the scales in their disfavour. Unions still make it difficult for them to get some jobs. There are few blacks in boardrooms and managers' chairs. Blacks are prominent in many sports, but few get into management.

The United States Commission on Civil Rights recently criticized the Reagan Administration for failing to set a good anti-discrimination example, citing a decline in the appointment of blacks and women.

"The resistance to social equity is fierce", a recent study by the Joint Centre for Political Studies, a black think tank, said. "There is a continuing climate of racism."

Among all the difficulties blacks encounter - unemployment, ghetto life, illiteracy, the results of industrial decline, the failure of billions of dollars to pull them from the bottom - perhaps the most disturbing is the corrosion of black family life.

This is a sensitive subject blacks have, until recently, preferred to keep to themselves. Until the mid-1960s three-quarters of black families were headed by two parents. Today half the families are fatherless. While the



"I have a dream": Martin Luther King (top) at the Lincoln Memorial in 1963, and below, three of the men continuing the fight, from left Washington, Johnson and Jackson

overall black birthrate has fallen, the birthrate among single women has tripled in 20 years. Black leaders talk of an epidemic of births outside wedlock and are concerned at the decline in family and community responsibility, the damage to a traditionally family-oriented people.

Blacks see their tormented history and economic and social circumstances as contributors to this rot. They think the government should help with programmes to rebuild family life, but do not believe it is primarily a government problem. Rather, they think the black community and institutions must do more.

Harold Washington, Chicago's mayor, says: "We were slow to move from the protest movement into politics, lulled into thinking that passing a few laws was enough." Law, however, does change minds by creating a framework of behaviour, and the laws of the 1960s helped make America, and especially the 11 southern states where 53 per cent of blacks live, more racially tolerant, with tensions easing along with the dismantling of apartheid.

"Yes, we've come a long way", Leroy Johnson said. He was Georgia's first black state senator 20 years ago. Drinking fountains, lavatories and cafés were segregated in the state assembly, and in his first session, only four of 52 senators spoke to him.

"All that's finished. The old open prejudice has gone, but it has moved into boardrooms and is more subtle." The struggle of the 1960s led to fuller black participation in politics. Twelve years ago there were fewer than 2,000 black elected officials in America. Now there are more than 5,000.

In the mayor's office in Atlanta, premier city of the South, Andrew Young, former American Ambassador to the UN and once an aide to Martin Luther King, said it was important to remember how things were.

"When I was a student, on my way home from college, I was afraid to stop in this city. Now I'm its second black mayor."

"Much of Martin's dream has been achieved, the social inequalities he fought have gone. We don't have to march against brutal sheriffs any more. The police force in Atlanta, for example, is 48 per cent black. But there is still oppression and discrimination. We haven't been able to find ways of changing things rapidly enough."

In Washington, that August day,

Martin Luther King also said: "I have a dream that one day even the state of Mississippi, sweltering with the heat of injustice and oppression, will be transformed into an oasis of freedom and justice."

Whatever was happening in the rest of the United States, it was worse in Mississippi, poorest state in the union, where racism was brutal, embedded, legitimized.

Mississippians, black and white, look with wonder on the change from the days when soldiers had to make the state's demagogic leaders obey the law and desegregate. Charles Overby, executive editor of the *Clarion-Ledger*, in Jackson, the state capital, said: "I remember the day the first gubernatorial candidate shook hands publicly with a black man, knowing it would cost him votes."

"It used to be fashionable to be racist, part of the way of life. There was a great fear of the unknown in desegregation. But once the barrier was broken, people saw something good was happening. Everything here used to revolve around race. No longer. Mississippi held out to the last, now it is a model in race relationships."

Although race relations in Mississippi have improved, there is still prejudice. Whites fled the schools on desegregation, setting up private white academies. Some have failed because of poor teaching standards, some have run out of money. But white churches are supporting some of the white academies. The tradition of separate worship is still strong in the South. Black churches and white churches meet particular needs in their communities and have different styles of worship.

Gerrymandering and other manipulations have kept thousands of Mississippi blacks disfranchised or unable to get elected in black majority areas. Blacks are campaigning to end abuses, and to persuade people to register on the voters' lists - and to vote.

The effort is being led by the charismatic Jesse Jackson, a disciple of Martin Luther King, who has been roaming the South tirelessly, telling the crowds gathered in churches, cotton fields and under the shade of pecan trees: "There's a freedom train a-comin'. But you've got to register to ride."

He tells them: "Reagan won Alabama by 17,000 votes, but there were 272,000 unregistered blacks. He won Arkansas by 5,000 votes, with 85,000

unregistered blacks..." He seeks to politicize and revitalize people who do not see voting as whites do, whose history of weariness and caution has deprived them of the community sense essential to the process of voting.

"I'm a catalyst," Jesse Jackson told me, "inspiring participation in democracy. God is using me as a magnet to draw and inform people."

During the 1970s many blacks became convinced that managerial and corporate liberalism had been exposed as ineffectual. They also looked to the Carter Administration to make improvements. It was disappointing. These failures, the recession and the squeeze of Reaganomics, accelerated the emergence of Jesse Jackson, a more militant man than Martin Luther King.

"We've won freedom," he said. "But not equality."

His emphasis is on demands for an economic and political share of what white Americans have - "A share, not welfare" - and his activist organization, PUSH, confronts corporations, asking for better jobs deals.

Blacks are proud to have several big-city mayors among 5,000 elected black officials across the country. But 5,000 is only just over one per cent of the total, while blacks are nearly 12 per cent of the population. There are no black senators.

Typically, a black elected official is a well-educated, middle-aged, middle-class Democrat, voted in primarily by blacks. This profile demonstrates the difficulties blacks face in meeting America on equal terms. The middle class is the spring of political change, but the black middle class is very small and educational standards desperately need improvement. During the 1960s it was white civil rights workers who stiffened the ranks of the black middle class.

One of the key arenas for black assertion is in the Democratic Party, which blacks traditionally support. It is here that white intentions and liberal attitudes will be tested, perhaps painfully, for blacks are increasingly insistent that civil rights by themselves are not enough, that they must have political muscle and an economic payoff.

Twenty years ago Martin Luther King spoke at a time of struggle when hopes were running high. Today many blacks feel those hopes have been betrayed. The struggle is being renewed, and spirits are rising again. But the road looks harder.

moreover... Miles Kingston

Fringe benefits, and worse

"I think you'll find our production of *Othello* is rather different. We only have four performers: Othello, Desdemona, and two Iagos. One of the Iagos is a man, the other is a woman. Oh, and Othello is white."

"I'm from New Zealand and I'm doing a one-man show based on Highland music. I happen to think that the Scots have lost sight of the history and meaning of their own music, and I've come over here to try and put them right."

"There are four deaf people in our production of *Goldoni's* play, and the whole thing is done with speaking and sign language simultaneously."

"We're both 18 and we've formed our own dance company called *Moove Dancers*. There are only the two of us in it. We must be mad."

"I think they must all be mad. I think I must be mad. This is the opening ceremony of the Edinburgh Fringe, the one chance the groups get to come face to face with the media, or at least administrators. *SMichael* Dale puts it, the time when the groups try to meet the press and the press tries to avoid the groups. There are hundreds of groups and they've all got a member here, handing out leaflets and doing a fast spiel about their show."

"Hi, we're the Hip Pocket Theatre from Fort Worth and we are the first Texan group ever to come to the festival, there are 45 of us doing three Texan plays and the *Fort Worth Star Telegram* has sent a reviewer all the way here just to review us. He flew home again afterwards."

"Hello, we're the *Omelette Broadcasting Company* and we are the only improvising comedy group on the fringe, we ask the audience for ideas at the start and then we improvise on them."

"I'm Richard Festerstein and I'm in an *Athol Fugard* play about a South African brother and sister. I play the brother, and the sister is played by my mother. We got a rave review in *The Scotsman* last year, right at the end, so we've come back again."

"We're doing *Ben Hur* at the Wireworks Theatre. Yes, we're doing the chariot race."

"We're the only group on the fringe doing eighteenth century music on authentic instruments."

"I have an exhibition of patchwork quilts at 4 Manor Place."

Why are all these people telling me these things? Because only one member of each group is allowed in and one member of our group (*Instant Sunshine*, advt.) has already got in, so I am masquerading as a journalist. *The Times*, says my lapel badge. It was a bad mistake. All these people are now telling me things.

"*Death in Canopy* is a play about solitary confinement. The set design is by Hugh Collins, who is serving a life sentence in Barlinnie Prison, but he is being allowed over for the day on Thursday to see the play. Yes, I think he will have to be accompanied."

"Hello, we're doing *Samson Agonistes* by Milton and Peter Dyer is playing all six parts, he's brilliant."

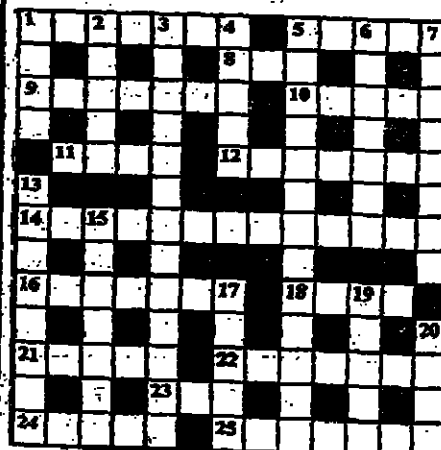
"Hello, we're doing a dramatization of stories written about Harry Lime by Orson Welles, yes, he wrote a whole book of them in 1953, nobody seems to have heard of them published by the *News of the World*, family edition, it's very good."

"Hello, we're doing a play called *Wolf Redemmer*, it's a cross between *Red Riding Hood* and *Crime and Punishment*, oh and it's by an Iranian playwright and it's fantastic."

"Hello, I'm putting on *No Exit* by Sartre. There are no gimmicks. It's just a play and we're doing it straight. It's at the Edinburgh College of Art. No, no gimmicks at all. Sorry."

It sounds great. This is the one I'll go and see. Something normal. Now, I start telling people about my group. I point to my lapel badge and say: "I'm in a group called *The Times*, basically it's formed from ex-officials of *The Times*, yes, William Rees-Mogg, Harry Evans etc, and we're putting on a fast-moving musical about the rise of Rupert Murdoch, it's in Japanese and... It's no good. You can't make up anything as fantastic as the things already on the fringe."

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 134)



ACROSS
1 Indications (7)
2 Abandon (5)
3 Twirl (3)
4 Chase (7)
5 High clouds (5)
6 Only remaining (4)
7 Few lottery (7)
8 Free to decide (13)
9 Left out (7)
10 Opposed to (4)
11 Union fire (5)
12 Beckley (7)
13 Zealand parrot (5)
14 Fresh dairy (5)
15 Widespread (7)
16 Bitch (11)
17 Inch 12 degree (9)
18 Scurvy (11)
19 Chipmunk (11)
20 24 Apr 25 Lyscom 26 Refractor
27 28 Oct 31 Discher 4 Oscillator 5 Scene
6 Dull 7 Shille 14 Unlucky 15 Spencer
26 Captive 18 New 19 Kilm 21 Tepee
(Solution to No 134 on Saturday)
Bank Holiday Jumbo Crossword Clues
The New Collins Concise

DOWN
1 Sprites (4)
2 Deep skin layer (5)
3 Riposte (13)
4 Swagman (5)
5 Adaptation (13)
6 Covered walk (7)
7 Outer spalls (8)
8 Beneficial right (8)
9 Guzzled (7)
10 Remove trousers (5)
11 Acceptor (5)
12 Touch (4)

Abortion: Ireland divided once more

are being asked in confession which way they will vote.

The Church hierarchy appears aware of the dangers as well as the enormous changes that have taken place in Irish society and, while urging a majority for the amendment, has made clear that those opposed to it are not necessarily pro-abortion and that everyone has the right to vote according to conscience.

The proposed amendment has divided the Republic's churches, medical and legal professions, political parties, families, and even the country's largest farming organization. It has done untold damage to the liberal credentials of Dr Garret FitzGerald. And though the media have devoted much space and air-time to the arguments for and against, spilling out an unprecedented amount of information on gynaecological problems and family planning methods, doorstep ignorance on the issue is astonishing.

The amendment declares: "the state acknowledges the right to life of the unborn and with due regard to the equal right to life of the mother guarantees in its law to respect and, as far as practicable, by

its laws to vindicate and defend that right." But the content of the amendment is rarely mentioned. On the doorstep and campaign trail the issue is simplistic and emotive: for or against abortion.

Men show little or no interest, regarding the issue as "women's business", and some seem unable to understand the mechanics of voting in a referendum rather than in general and local elections.

Still more are impressed by a doctor's name appearing on the anti-amendment leaflet and the words "if it's good enough for him it's good enough for me" are commonly heard. Among the middle classes, anti-clerical strains are apparent, with people objecting to the Roman Catholic clergy interfering as well as the placing in shops of pro-life leaflets urging people to vote. Yes.

Inevitably for some, it is a chance to knock Britain, portrayed as a Sodomy and Gomorrah. Some say that by passing the amendment Irish culture will be saved from complete Americanization. Never mind that many supporters of the amendment then watch the *BBC* and *Dallas*, and that 3,500 Irish women travel to England each year

for abortions. One woman said: "It will be a message to the world that Ireland does not want abortion and has some standards."

The issue has divided the nation but also created surprising alliances, bringing people of different creeds together to join the campaign against the amendment.

The 30-strong anti-amendment group in Carlow, comprising 24 Roman Catholics and six Protestants, is entirely middle-class - a matter they regret - but alongside the married men and women are young bachelors from both denominations who are out afternoon and night carousing. For some it has been a risk to their professional and business interests to be seen in a rural area opposing the amendment. One young estate agent has already had a house withdrawn from his firm because of his stance.

Motives for joining the anti-amendment group are mixed. The issue has widened from a debate about a pro-life amendment to a discussion about the future of Ireland and the prospects for unity between north and south. Some are alarmed that the amendment could be the forerunner of attempts to make the family planning laws

more restrictive. Others see it as a step back to the 1950s. Mary McDermott, aged 37, a Roman Catholic doctor's wife, had never been involved in any political work or campaign until, she says, "I became so angry at this dreadful red herring being brought forward when Ireland has so many other problems."

She ignored the warning of her father that if she put up a Vote No poster, "a brick would be through the window within minutes" and can now laugh at the abuse she has received on the doorstep. Amendment proponents have lectured her about sex, admonishing that if there were no sexual intercourse there would be no need for abortion. Mrs McDermott knows the danger of being labelled an "abortionist" in a rural community, but says: "By standing up I gave other people courage. It helps being in a crowd as it makes up for all the mud-slinging that is going on."

She is alarmed that if the amendment is passed operations for ectopic pregnancies and cancer of the womb may be more difficult and that certain forms of contraceptive, the IUD and morning after pill, will no longer be available. She

said: "I see it as my duty to explain all this to women for their sake, their children and their grandchildren."

As the group meets to plan its evening's canvass, two Protestant brothers who joined because they saw the proposed amendment as a regression, an attempt to halt the liberalization of the last few years, admit that such a group would have been "unthinkable" 20 years ago. Said one: "Its existence shows a social change that has taken place and the number of Protestants involved is evidence that we are no longer prepared to sit back and opt for a quiet life. That happened too much in the past."

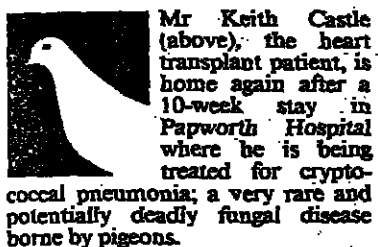
Many in the anti-amendment campaign privately believe they will lose the vote, pointing to the influence the clergy could have on the faithful on the last Sunday before polling. Others believe that they may lose the battle, but win the war.

The clamour for divorce, legalization of homosexuality and less-restrictive family planning laws will continue, as will influences from both east and west on the Emerald Isle. As one leading anti-amendment campaigner put it: "We'll let the Roman Catholic Church have the abortion issue, but all the youngsters will get the contraceptive."

Richard Ford

MEDICAL BRIEFING

Pigeon peril for heart patient



Mr Keith Castle (above), the heart transplant patient, is home again after a 10-week stay in Papworth Hospital where he is being treated for cryptococcal pneumonia, a very rare and potentially deadly fungal disease borne by pigeons.

Until June this year Mr Castle had not given much thought to pigeons. However, as he has enormous energy he decided recently to repair his roof. Pigeons were getting through the tiles and their droppings were mixing with the dust of ages on the floor of the roof space. It must have been this dust, breathed in by Mr Castle, which contained the lethal fungus *Cryptococcus neoformans*.

He was aware of the infection only because of a fortunate chest X-ray, for the fungus does not give rise to symptoms and serious trouble until it has spread from the lungs. In his case the disease, diagnosed while still confined to the lungs, has been treated with the powerful antifungal agent Amphotericin B, which he has had fed intravenously for four hours every other day. He has now completed two-thirds of the course; for the last third he will be an out-patient. His many well-wishers will be glad to know that the infection is receding.

Pigeons can also carry another form of pneumonia, ornithosis, caused by *Chlamydia psittaci*. Although rather less rare than cryptococcosis, it is however much more easily treated with a prolonged course of heavy doses of oral tetracycline. People whose association with pigeons does not go beyond throwing them the occasional stale crust are unlikely to be affected.

Needless dread



People will notice, but be too kind to draw attention to, the urgency with which the middle-aged man rushes to the lavatory. Surgeons are concerned that this conspiracy of politeness has given rise to a quite unnecessary dread which delays patients from having a necessary, statistically very safe, and quick operation. With a good surgeon, and if all goes well, a man may have a transurethral resection, the internal operation without any external wound, and be back at work within a fortnight. Although in most men with prostatic symptoms the enlargement can be classified as benign, in some the tissue has turned malignant. There is good news for these patients. Two studies published in *The Lancet* of a new ICI product suggest that soon treatment may be possible without a man having to tolerate mutilating surgery, or the side effects of huge, castrating doses of female hormones.

Partnership problems



Scientists writing in the *American Journal of Epidemiology* have evaluated the effect of a wife's personality and education on the chance of her husband developing heart disease. Data gleaned from 169 marriages followed over 10 years show that if striving ambitious men marry women who have had further education their chance of heart disease is increased by 2.5 times; if the wife works outside the home by 3.5 times. The danger can be minimized if the man chooses a woman with a similar personality to his own; married to an easy-going woman he will fare particularly badly.

New antidepressant



The diagnosis and treatment of depression has featured in the recent columns of *The Times* this week, while a small news item drew attention to a new antidepressant, bupropion, trade name Wellbutrin, which, it is claimed, can be effective in treating people who have failed to respond to other antidepressants. Papers on its use were enthusiastically received at the World Congress in Vienna, and reports in *The Clinical Journal of Psychiatry* were encouraging, but while the American FDA shows every sign of approval, rumours of doubts from the British Committee for Safety of Medicines have been heard. Bupropion, therefore, may join a long list of preparations which are available only on one side of the Atlantic.

Dr Thomas Stuttard

Correction

In Madhur Jaffrey's cookery article on Wednesday, the recipe for carrots with raisins and dates should have read: "Five medium-sized carrots and 1 medium-sized onion, peeled."

It's just more bigger over there

The US came top of the list in a survey of children's holiday choices published this week. Alan Franks reports

If you have children between the ages of eight and 12, there is a strong likelihood that at least one of them is, where holidays are concerned, a nomadic, ice cream-loving, snail-hating aeronaut. Almost certainly, he or she is a thwarted Americanophile.

This much, and plenty more, emerges from a survey just released by MORI (Market and Opinion Research International). It was conducted for Thomas Cook, the travel agents, who were aware, like many parents, that the pre-adolescent sector has become, if not the seat of important summer decision-making, then at least a potent pressure group.

After all holidays, like houses and cars, are major items of family expenditure, and even if it is the parent who signs the cheque, it is no less the children who must live with the commitment. They derive much of their fascination from the fact that, again like houses and cars, they occupy the common ground between the two worlds of adults and children.

To influence the family's location for a fortnight, therefore, is to touch the levers of power.

MORI plumped for this age sector because, as director Tim Burns agrees, children younger than eight are hard to communicate with on abstract or hypothetical issues. They occupy their own fantasy worlds so vividly that the matter of a holiday's physical placement is not of primary importance. Once over 13, of course, they begin to think in terms of adult behaviour and we have only ourselves to blame for the results of their apings.

MORI began with three groups of children, each consisting of six members. The first comprised girls of nine from working class families; the second middle class girls of 12, and the third boys of 10 and 11 from a mixture of family backgrounds. From these preliminary interviews was evolved a 12-part questionnaire in which 509 children took part during half-term holidays at the beginning of June. They were drawn from a broad cross-section of age (within the four-year span), social class, and region.

According to Burns, the process was a surprisingly educative one for parents as well as for Cooks. Under the code of conduct laid down by the Market Research Society, an adult must always be present at an interview with a child, and one of



the most popular parental misconceptions to be lanced during these sessions was that children have a sort of holiday homing instinct - a desire to return to the same place year after year.

In fact only 32 per cent wanted to go back with 64 per cent favouring fresh pastures and 4 per cent undecided.

Of those fresh pastures, North America is clearly the most popular - favoured by half those interviewed with Europe in second place on a 34 per cent vote. Britain claims only 8 per cent, level with Australia and New Zealand.

Sadly, these figures are a world away from reality, since just 1 per cent of the children made it to the States last year, 16 per cent to Europe, none to the Antipodes - but 78 per cent to Britain. The transatlantic lure is best summarized by this quote from an eight-year-old girl: "America's more bigger than all the other countries. The best bit about America is Disneyland. It's got three countries in America, it's got Washington DC, New York and Sidney."

Not that the badly under-subsidized Australia is without its romance, if you heed this 10-year-old blade: "I'd go to Australia, probably with a girl or something like that."

Burns says that, while he, like many parents, was surprised by the "wanderlust" element in the returns, the penchant for America was predictable. "As you can see, although few have been, there is a certain level of knowledge that all children share about the States, partly from the TV of course, but also from the importation of what you could call the McDonalds culture - the country appears to them to be bigger, brasher, livelier and more exciting, all aspects which are very important. In this respect, America is a childlike country."

It is not just cost that inhibits parents from taking family holidays to America; there are the four other disincentives of food; healthcare; heat/climate; and travel problems, none of which loom nearly as large in a United Kingdom venture. What parents are obviously failing to grasp is that "Abroad" is not just a concept, it is actually another country.

In the words of this nine-year-old girl: "Abroad there'll be nicer beaches and the seas are warmer, the beach will be warmer, there'll be sand." Sentiments echoed by another girl with three years more experience of these matters: "Abroad you get a better suntan than you would here." Yet the harsh truth is that only 37 per cent of the sample

have already travelled abroad, compared with the total of 79 per cent who still want to go for a first or subsequent time.

Parents also have much to learn about family democracy. In 84 per cent of the cases, the decision on where to go is taken by "Mum or Dad only", while the children hold sway in only 16 per cent of households. Girl aged 12: "Well, my parents decide where to go and ask us if we'd like to go there." Girl aged nine: "We have this quiz, who goes where, and my Dad normally wins."

Aeroplane is the most popular means of getting there with 47 per cent of the vote, followed by hovercraft (27), ship (16), train (eight), car (six) and coach (one). Sea travel, of course, has its problems, as this 12-year-old girl explains so graphically: "You start to get excited, I love going on ferries, then you start to get ill."

Taking all forms of travel together, only 27 per cent said they felt sick - in some cases, like this boy of 11, for unexpected reasons: "Setting off you start feeling sick sometimes because you are so bored and can't wait."

Among girls, hotels emerge as the favourite accommodation, for excellent reasons such as these, both from 12-year-olds: "A hotel is posh, you meet new people"; and: "In a hotel

you get room service, if you make a mess it's all cleared up for you." Boys share the judgment, but only with a figure of 39 per cent compared with the girls' 53 per cent. For both genders, a camp site is second choice and a villa third.

The top five desiderata at hotels are: swimming pool, restaurants and bars, indoor games, nice beds and outdoor games. "Fitted carpets and a waiter to bring my food by the pool," says a 10-year-old girl. "Marble tiles in the corridors so I can make a noise with my shoes," says a male contemporary.

Ice cream tops the list of favourite holiday fare (only two per cent declaring it "horrid"), but all the other popular options (fish and chips, soup, fried chicken and french bread) score in the high eighties or nineties. In the hate poll, snails just outstrip frogs legs, with octopus only slightly less loathsome.

The ten "most fun activities" are, in order: staying up late, swimming in a pool, playing on the beach, going to an adventure playground, attending parties/barbecues, swimming in the sea, playing with other English children, boating and water sports, going to discos, and eating in a restaurant.

Less fun activities include going for a drink with Mum and Dad, watching parades and playing in hotel lifts.

While away, only 36 per cent miss home, 60 per cent do not, and four per cent are uncertain. Most sorely missed by one respondent is "Foxy the cat, Bramble my best Teddy, and my bed." The quote is not attributed, but, with altered names, the sentiments are infinitely transferable.

Mr Andrew Barrett, marketing director of Cooks, believes that his company, thus armed, will be better able to point the undecided parent, or indeed child, in the right direction. As you read this, he himself is travelling to Disneyland with his two young children, who have been pressing him for an answer to the question: "How big are the Mickey Mouses and do they move about?" Meanwhile, I am going to the Lake District for the umpteenth time, to stay with my wife's seven-year-old god-daughter. I do hope her parents are there, since chatting to them is high on my list of fun activities. My daughter, who is five, longs to stay there year after year, which is fortunate.

One reason for this - not the main one I hope - is that the older girl has a splendid wardrobe of dresses which devolve to her as the most radiant of hand-me-downs. But that, I suppose, is cheating.

COMMENT Hooray for Hackney

As I walked home along the canal in the blazing sunshine, I thought how pleasant it was to live in this part of London. In view was a duck with eight ducklings, little boys fishing, grandparents walking pretty little children, and lovers dawdling. Where was I? I discovered that I have been happily living for the past eight years in a "no-go area for almost all except those compelled to remain there", according to Gerald Kaufman, in his column last Monday, and Paul Harrison, who has written a book called *Inside the Inner City*. What? Can this be Hackney, hub of the universe?

Can this be the place I moved to because I like it, where I could afford a house, and where the services were good? Far from fleeing the place, I propose to stay in Hackney for the rest of my days.

Not only can I walk to work, I can take any one of seven bus routes. The service is intermittent (as in the rest of London) but there is also the secret railway from Dalston Junction to Richmond, and the newly opened Kingsland station. Within a few moments walk of my gracious Hackney home I have two excellent public libraries, the church I attend, and a number of friendly shops.

All hours of the day and night appear to be worked and these are also the hours I walk about the place, returning home from the theatre and parties in the middle of the night without coming to any harm.

I have been burgled twice. The second time, with the aid of my neighbours, the police caught the burglars. The household in London which has not been burgled is a fortunate one.

My house, which was indeed in a sad state when I bought it, has been put in order by me. When I moved there in 1975 there were six derelict within 200 yards. Now there are none - all have been repaired. The bombed site opposite has been filled with council houses - not a dreary block, but a reasonable imitation of a London town house. I like the street markets, the frenetic activity of Ridley Road, the garden market on Sundays.

On Sundays the congregation at Mass reflects the population - Irish, English, Italian, Portuguese, black. That variety is what keeps a neighbourhood alive. In Hackney we frighten the children with tales of dark satanic mills in Mr Kaufman's constituency of Gorton, Manchester. None of us has ever set foot in the place.

Pelican, £3.95.

Philippa Toomey

TALKBACK

Working with a baby in the house

Margery Roberts wrote last week of the impossibility of mixing a career with bringing up children

From Audrey Macleod, 94 Woodwarde Road, Dulwich

Now Mrs Roberts (First Person, August 19), get your hands out of that bucket of Nappies and put aside your baby wipes. Widen your thinking and be glad you are able to look after your healthy, active kids yourself, for a career plus nanny/granny would undoubtedly trouble your anxieties. Relax and enjoy your small children now while at the same time working to change some of your inflexible attitudes.

May I suggest a modest survival kit? First, decide on priorities and job-share some of these with your husband, and secondly aim for a tiny oasis of freetime each day, however scant, and guard it jealously.

Keep your own interests going and your friends (the ones who accept you as you are, and be selfish and spoil yourself often). This way you will be better able to meet the unending demands of others without feeling permanently deprived.

Replace the grudging "I suppose I shall have to resign myself to motherhood alone" by a more informed and positive approach. You could see yourself as entering an enriching period of growth and emotional development.

From Mary R Lamberton, 48 The Avenue, Kew, Surrey

I am a visitor from America. May I suggest to Margery Roberts how I and others manage to do it without the aid of nannies or mothers-in-law.

I have two children aged eight and five and I have been working for three years for a magazine publisher in Washington, D.C. I can do this for the following reasons:

1 An employer who is willing to hire me for 20-30 hours a week paying my salary on an hourly basis.
2 A school which offers day care after regular school hours until 6pm.
Actually, I have never used this myself as I like to come home with the children, but it is a valuable service.

3 A short commute which is only ten minutes in my case.

4 A job which one can perform outside the office. Primary times for a mother are Saturdays when fathers can take over and evenings and early mornings when children are asleep. This flexibility is important when chickenpox appears.

5 Domestic help. I have a daily



once a week which maintains my sanity and minimum standards.

6 A supportive husband.

The advantages of being a working mother outweigh the demands from home and office.

From Mrs Jennifer White, 9 Birch Way, Chesham, Buckinghamshire

Margery Roberts is right - the only way a mother can work is to abandon her child to someone else. However, I must object to her slur on child-minders. As a minder for the past five years, I feel it my duty to point out that we are registered by the council, our houses are checked for safety and first-aid provision and we are limited to three pre-school children at any one time.

We have an area supervisor, regular meetings and access to a toy library. We aspire towards being semi-professionals. Generally, our press image has improved since the "baby farm" scandals of the sixties, and rightly so.

We are not simply second best to a nanny. In fact, we have some advantages over the nanny, apart from being cheaper. Child-minders are usually mothers themselves and are used to children, indeed we enjoy their company.

From Mrs Susan Hawke, 24 Cowside Road, Great Glenn, Leicester

Margery Roberts mirrors much of my own experience. After 13 years at home with under-fives I know that I would be incapable of combining a career and the care of my family with any degree of success or semblance of sanity.

I count myself fortunate. My husband's salary is sufficient to enable me to stay at home to care for the family and although our lifestyle is relatively simple we have no genuine need for a second income.

But let us spare a thought for the unsung heroine of the low-income or single-parent family. She often has no such choice and is forced to work

long, boring hours in an unfulfilling job before returning home to tackle the household tasks that take Margery Roberts and me a whole day to complete.

From Margaret Galling, Almondhurst, Carters Lane, Old Woking, Surrey

I have recently resumed a career as part-time midwife after a three-year break in which I had two children, went to university, started keeping chickens and had a jolly good time.

I have been sadly disillusioned. In my own home I am the kingpin - sit as judge and jury for all family misdemeanours. My husband is far too busy.

Why on earth then did I feel the need to be important outside my family? I really don't know because the ghastly truth is that I am not! My brain seems perfectly capable but my hands seem to have become prematurely senile as they wrestle with new-fangled drip sets and fancy machines.

My personal confidence has hit an all-time low as I have been told by an eighteen-year-old that I'm putting on nappies the wrong way and have got my mask on upside down.

The final blow is, of course, it's not really My Very Own Money. It must go to the joint finances. I would be peeved, after all, if my husband claimed his salary as His Very Own Money.

From Mrs S. E. Minchin, 14 Macklinburgh Square, London

When Margery Roberts is 50 or thereabouts, I wonder how she will receive a request from her daughter/daughter-in-law to be a nanny (unpaid) to a brood of grandchildren, simply because their mother wants the best of both worlds.

Does it not occur to Mrs Roberts that mothers/mothers-in-law want a life of their own now that they are no longer "holding the baby"?

THE TIMES Tomorrow

START THE WEEKEND WITH THE PAPER THAT INFORMS, STIMULATES, AMUSES AND PROVOKES



● **EASY GLIDER:** How safe is hang-gliding now? why more women are taking it up.

● **TRAVEL:** The present appeal of Syria's past; Carnival time in the Caribbean;



● **FAMILY MONEY:** How much should your mortgage cost you?

● **SPORT:** Cricket - the Fourth Test Match; football - preview of the season's opening matches.

THE GREAT WIN-A-CAR COMPETITION

Plus

All the news from home and abroad; the Times Garden Project; Values on value for money for back-packers; Drink on Austrian wines; critics' choice of what's happening in the arts; selected guide to next week's events.

THE TIMES DIARY

No surrender

Where is the instrument of surrender signed by Major-General Jeremy Moore and General Menendez in the Falklands? Ian Kerr, who is marketing framed reproductions of a contemporary photocopy at £15.95 each, says no one can tell him the whereabouts of the original. It is officially denied that Moore has it, though the late Lord Montgomery certainly kept for the rest of his life the surrender signed at Lunenburg Heath. That document passed to the Imperial War Museum, with Monty's caravan and other papers, after his death. "Is the Falklands surrender on Maggie's too door?" Kerr asks irreverently. My PHSnoop in Downing Street sneaked a look, and it's not.

Bitter

The Campaign for Real Ale has declared war on an International Lager Festival, and banned its promoters. Watney, Mann and Tinsbury, from next month's Great British Beer Festival in Birmingham. There is indeed little international about the lagers featured. Carlsberg is brewed in Northampton, and Fosters and Holsten Drought come from Morlaix. Holsten Diat Pils is brewed in Hamburg, but bottled at Isleworth. Lagers brewed here are weaker than their continental counterparts and, though they taste less duty, their price is 10p to 15p a pint more than is charged for the more flavoured and traditional English bitter. The British Beer Festival organizer, Tim Webb, says: "Watney's are cynically using the festival idea to promote lagers only weeks before taking part in the biggest festival of traditional British beers. We could not let them get away with it." I'll think to that.

● In California, a PHSoot reports, there is a French restaurant next door to a dealer in gemstones. They are jointly called Chic-by-Jewel.

Shrinking

As a bookseller Sigmund Freud has come a little closer to my office. His likeness, sculpted by Lynn Kramer, presided for years over the counter of Bernard Stone's shop in Covent Garden. Now Stone has brought Siggy, as old customers know him, to Lamb's Conduit Street, Bloomsbury, and just in time for the street fair. New customers mistake Freud for an uncooperative assistant, and complain of his extreme taciturnity. This will not change, I fear, when he is shortly joined by Leonardo da Vinci.

Skin deep

Here is another winning sausage joke, this one from Mrs F. M. Pelling of Much Hadham: A hen-pecked husband was sent to buy some steak. "Here you are, sir," said the butcher "tender as a woman's heart." "In that case," replied the man, "I'll take a pound of sausages."



"But darling, they sell perfectly good hamburgers at Padstow"

Best of Spike

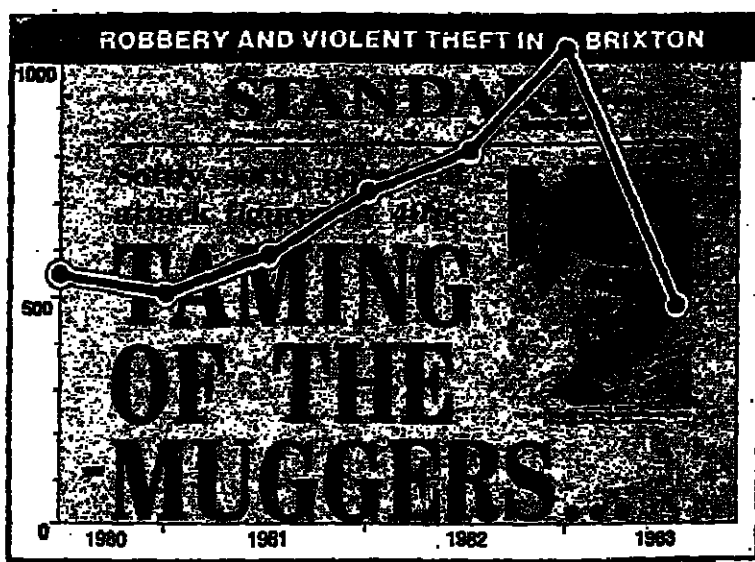
Pauline Scudamore of Upper Cheyne Row, SW3, is guaranteed a pretty funny mailbag in the coming weeks. She is appealing for anecdotes to include in an authorized life of Spike Milligan. Milligan is at present in South Africa, visiting an elephant he has adopted and named Mrs Thatcher, and only yesterday my colleague on the *Daily Mirror* was reminiscing that he once found Spike in the early hours in Soho, sitting alone in a large duffin. When the lady who is now his wife was sent to Milligan as a temporary secretary, the first letter he dictated to her went: "Dear Pope, I am not going to be a Catholic any more if you do not stop experiments on animals. Your semi-loyal servant, Spike." Yet when I attended a reunion of the Spike Milligan Old Comrades Association I was surprised how uncomradely they were. "Spike Milligan's wholly unreliable," one complained. "My invitation to this party gave completely the wrong address, and none of my friends here got one at all."

Michael Pomtney, books merchandise controller for W. H. Smith, will be displeased to see this item in the latest issue of the *WHS* paper. *Newspaper* Pomtney explains to an offended manager that it was only decided to stock the book *101 Uses for the Unemployed*, from which my illustration comes, because it would be "news" if they did not. "If we were not to buy it," Pomtney argues, "a lot more attention and sales would be drawn to the book than would otherwise happen". So instead they plan to "sell it but do nothing particular to promote it." And still they get attention.

PHS

George Brock on the problems of interpreting crime statistics

Mugging: what is the truth?



To judge by the confidence of the headlines which appear as a result of almost any official announcement, good or bad, about crime rates, the figures should command respect for their accuracy and authority. Percentages and unrounded numbers sound so scientific. But behind the headlines, such respect seems curiously lacking. Take Mr James Anderson, Chief Constable of Greater Manchester, last year: "What precisely do the statistics tell us about the state of criminality in the nation and what do they suggest should be done about it? Very little, is the answer I would give."

Or the Police Federation magazine, in the same year: "No informed person regards the existing criminal statistics as the most reliable indicator of the state of crime." Or the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Lane, in the House of Lords: "So far as the statistics are concerned, I propose to say nothing, except that they are mostly misleading and very largely unintelligible."

Last week, the police in Lambeth released figures showing that crimes classified as robbery and "other violent theft" had fallen during the first six months of this year compared with the same period last year (see table). This swiftly translated into "Muggings down 40 per cent" headlines, with an accompanying gloss from local senior police officers. "I personally feel that we are winning the battle of Brixton," said one.

So far, the more moderate local organizations represented on the Lambeth Police Consultative Group have endorsed the police optimism and are eager customers for crime figures which they are now given once a month. The black youths who continue to distrust the police and such committees remain, as before, on the outside.

Crime figures should be handled very gingerly. Mugging generates more political heat than any other crime, and it is at the same time one of the most difficult to count precisely. Legally, there is no such thing, and the word is loosely used to refer to a host of different classifications which policemen and academics have used to sift crime reports and statistics. For the purpose of the most detailed internal analyses, Scotland Yard's G10 statistical branch defines mugging as "the offence of robbery of personal property in the open when there is no previous association between the assailant and the victim." (The standard definition of robbery automatically implies the use or threat of force.)

When senior officers wish to refer to mugging, they point to the

statistical categories "robbery" and "other violent theft," which draw in a much broader range of offences. They cover anything from a shotgun raid on a bank or shop to a purse snatch. This crudity inflated the row over the Yard's decision to release figures for the colour of suspects in these categories alone.

"The Yard blames black muggers," said one headline among many when the figures - which looked considerably less sensational with non-mugging robbery and theft subtracted - were announced.

In the case of Brixton during the first six months of this year, the local head of the CID, Chief Superintendent Ray Adams, is sure that the "middle band" of robberies - street robberies - is the one that has fallen as a result of new tactics in the area which include "targeted" surveillance of likely locations and suspects, more officers on the streets, and close attention to community cooperation. "It's an opportunistic crime and we've cut down the opportunities," he said this week.

Other kinds of crime in Brixton, and the rest of Lambeth, have remained at much the same level as before, suggesting that the special attention given to street robbery recently may have had real effect. Whether the figures stay down will depend what lies behind the drop. Street robbers have sometimes turned out to be few in number but very active: a handful of people may commit dozens of offences. If the right handful have been caught, the effect on the statistics can be long lasting. If however, extra policemen on the street are simply deterring robbers who are waiting for quieter

times, keeping up the deterrent means keeping up the policing level.

Since the end of last year, L division has enjoyed the services of 93 extra men and also benefited from the transfer of men to "home beat" duties from other jobs. The local commander, Mr Alan March, readily admits that "I've been getting more than my cut of the cake."

Experiments elsewhere with special measures for particular crimes have sometimes simply driven the figures down by driving the criminals into the set of statistics next door. At the moment, it is impossible to tell whether or not L division's criminals have dispersed to other places where they will attract less attention and publicity. Equivalent figures are not available for neighbouring parts of south London. Other parts of L division than Brixton report generally stable crime rates, except Streatham, where robbery and other violent theft are slightly up. One Streatham residents' association has already complained that its interests are being neglected at the expense of its more famous neighbour.

There are more general reasons for scepticism in the face of crime figures. Academic studies have shown that the crimes which are reported are a fraction of those actually committed. The studies differ on the size of the "dark figure" of unreported crime, estimates ranging from five to 15 times the reported rate. Some crime "rises" appear to reflect only a rise in the number of crimes which the police are told about. A recent Home Office study suggested that during the 1970s the rate of burglary stayed

almost level, while the number of reported burglaries rose steadily - a change perhaps explained by the rapid spread of home insurance policies, which require break-ins to be notified to the police.

Other studies have shown that the rate of reported crime can fluctuate out of all relation to the real rate at which it is happening; others that the ways in which policemen write off certain incidents as "no crime" - a practice known as "cuffing" - varies enormously, from area to area. During the past 10 years, the ways in which local statistics were occasionally caused enough concern at the Home Office for the launching of several studies to correct some of the wilder misapprehensions. Much more recently, sterner measures have been taken. Since this summer, local forces inside the Metropolitan Police may not release their own figures until the raw material of the crime reports has been forwarded to the central statistical experts for vetting.

This still leaves the process private and ill understood. The compilation and use of crime figures is becoming one of the elements in the accountability battle being waged between Scotland Yard and the GLC and boroughs which have established investigative police committees. The figures in Brixton have also been, and still are, a weapon in the post-Scamman debate inside the police about crime strategies.

When Scamman's post-riot prescription first appeared, the police went on the offensive to discredit his proposals. The chairman of the Police Federation told his members that "saturation" policing was the only answer to mugging; muggings had doubled since the riots, said the *Daily Telegraph*; it was Britain's "top crime," said the *Daily Mirror*; and the Deputy Assistant Commissioner at Scotland Yard claimed that Scamman was undisciplined. All police's ability to act decisively. This has now faded into silence and been replaced by an optimistic "softly softly" front, and cautious celebration of the new figures.

None of this is likely to satisfy the voices calling for greater accountability for the Metropolitan Police, who would like, among other things, the power to examine and vet the machinery which turns out crime figures. In the words of Walter Eassey, head of Camden Council's police committee support unit: "The police are a huge nationalized industry. What other one of those would let so much activity go by without proper accountable auditing?"

The kid glove general sitting on a powder keg

Karachi was upper-class and well educated. Her hair was cut short and the dupatta which she wore in deference to the Islamic dress code, was screwed up around her shoulders like a college scarf. She was from Lahore, another cosmopolitan city. It is the principal city of the Punjab, Pakistan's richest province.

Lahore holds the key to the future of Pakistan. The disturbances in Sind are distressing to the martial law regime of General Zia ul-Haq, but they can be controlled. But if the Punjab were to rise as well, General Zia would be doomed.

The woman sat in her lawyer's office, sipping a delicately flavoured mint tea. Her husband, one of the Punjab's leading of the Tehrik-i-Insaf, is in jail. The name of the party translates as "Movement for Unity", and it is one of the eight banned political parties forming the Movement for the Restoration of Democracy which on August 14, Pakistan's independence day, launched a campaign of civil disobedience, aimed at ending martial law, restoring the 1973 constitution and forcing immediate elections.

In a pre-emptive snoop, the martial law authorities looked away the great majority of the leadership of all the dissident and officially "defunct" parties, an action which has proved remarkably effective. "People keep ringing up," the woman complained. "They are enthusiastic, they want to go out and court arrest, but they don't know who to give their names to."

General Zia's regime has followed up the pre-emptive arrests with shows of force wherever demonstrators have turned out on the

streets; but generally it has shown great restraint. Lathi charges have often been conducted by policemen at walking pace, intimidating the crowds by banging their long, iron-shod canes on the road or walls, but without actually breaking heads. Police shootings, a common enough event in the sub-continent, have taken place only where property was being destroyed and life threatened.

A rapidly mounting death toll, or the killing of some revered figure, could spread the disturbances from the one turbulent province to the rest of the country. This the regime is plainly anxious to avoid.

So far the techniques appear to be working, except in Sind. But Sind is a special case. The southern province has long felt itself oppressed by the rest of Pakistan, and particularly by the Punjab. Sindhis complain that their senior government officials are brought in from outside, that they have not participated to the same extent as the Punjab in the country's economic expansion.

A quarter-page advertisement in a Karachi newspaper this week illustrates why the Sindhis feel persecuted. It complains about the special tax that Karachi has to pay on petrol to ensure that fuel costs are the same all round the country despite the cost of transporting it to distant provinces. At the same time it objects to having to pay a higher electricity tariff than the rest of the country, where hydro-electric schemes provide cheaper current than Karachi's thermal generators.

Baluchistan and North-West Frontier also feel oppressed by the central government. But the Baluch and the Pathans have not risen like the Sindhis. These two provinces are much more remote and sparsely inhabited, and the MRD leadership was caught wrong-footed at the start of the civil disobedience campaign by an open split between the ancient "Frontier Gandhi", Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan, who leads the National Democratic Party, and its partner, the Pakistan People's Party formerly led by the late Zulfikar Ali Bhutto.

Partly because of this and other splits, and because of the extent of the government preparations, many observers have tended to underestimate the ability of the MRD to keep together and to organize an extended campaign of agitation. To give the campaign credibility, the leaders of the movement, and particularly of the Pakistan People's Party, the dominant force in the MRD, have had to work all out to build up momentum.

How Poland's silver screen has lost its glitter

Warsaw is 8pm, the cinema booking office has been shut for half an hour - "sold out", says the notice - and inside the first mind-deadening takes from Film-Kronika, Poland's answer to *Pathe News*, are beginning to roll. Outside, touts offer tickets with a hefty mark-up to the waiting crowd, and cinema attendants, who have a special ticket allocation, negotiate privately with young couples fretting about missing the main feature film.

This is *She-Wolf*, the latest in a wave of horror films that include titles such as *Demons* and *Shivers*, produced by the Silesian studios. It stars some good actors, notably Stanislaw Brudnyant, but to no avail. It is clear after three minutes that this is truly a bad film. Women turn into wolves, teeth are bared, eyeballs roll or pop out of their sockets, blood and tedium flow in equal quantities. The film is very popular. Some Polish critics say Poland's cinema has entered its worst crisis since the war, a crisis that has both economic and political roots. It is a smaller, more sharply defined,

model of what is happening in the country at large. In 1981, when Andrzej Wajda won a prize at Cannes for his *Man of Iron*, 41 feature films were produced in Poland; in 1983-84 only 20 to 25 will be made. This is partly a financial dilemma; equipment is outdated, new cameras and video equipment are needed but everything requires more hard currency than the film industry has. It does not even have many zlotys. Thirty-one cinemas closed in 1981, 53 last year.

Audiences are smaller. In an attempt to attract people back to the cinema, the Poles are treated to a staple of historical and costume dramas, comedies and horror films. Some money is spent on Western films - *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid* and *The Empire Strikes Back* are both showing in the capital - but only those guaranteed to draw the crowds and that do not ideologically offend are shown. The chairman of the television authority has decided to close down the whole of the second channel - there is now no choice of viewing - because of technical



Zia: arrests then restraint

shortages, but as a result the natural testing ground for film-makers has disappeared. The nub of the problem, however, is political. Andrzej Wajda, who is finishing a film about a Polish prisoner-of-war who is executed after falling in love with a German woman in wartime Germany, is the Polish film industry's biggest earner of hard currency. This is because his films are internationally acclaimed. But his *Man of Iron* - about the birth of Solidarity - cannot be shown in Poland and Wajda himself was edged into resigning from the presidency of the Film-makers' Union. He has also been dismissed as a studio chief. That means the industry's biggest earner has been denied any decision say in the moulding of Polish film strategy.

The best example of how standards of excellence are being subordinated to political expediency came last year with a decision not to show a film by Ryszard Bugajski entitled *The Interrogation*. It depicted a woman, played by Krystyna Janda, who was arrested in the 1950s on trumped-up charges

and was brutally interrogated. It is essentially an historical film about a particularly dark period of Polish experience. According to a secret transcript of a meeting held in the Ministry of Culture after the showing of the film, most of Bugajski's peers praised its artistic quality but warned that "a film of such passion will evoke great passions in return". This was a damning criticism: anything that could stir up political emotions has been excised from cultural life.

The result is that Poland's most talented film directors - Wajda, Krystof Zanussi, Jerzy Skolnowski - work as best they can abroad and the crisis of the country's cinema deepens. At home a commission including a director, a cameraman and a critic has been set up to recommend how the industry can be made profitable again. Film-makers and audiences are hoping that the commission not only comes up with appropriate answers but also asks the right questions.

Roger Boyes

David Watt

Giving the voters what they want

You can tell quite a lot about politicians from their holiday photographs. Harold Macmillan's penchant for pictures of himself in plus-fours surrounded by 12-bore aristocrats. Ted Heath's sailing shots; John Kennedy playing touch football on the Hyannis beach; Lyndon Johnson prodding steers on the banks of the Pedernales; Harold Wilson seen guarding the approaches to the Channel from his Seelies cottage - all these were highly revealing because they displayed the kind of person the subject was supposed to be when he wasn't being a politician. This is a matter of some importance in the image-building business, for voters like to identify with "the real person" behind the official persona or at least to share a little of his fantasy life.

Mrs Thatcher, paradoxically, is on to a rather good and characteristic thing with her disappearance from camera view behind the expensive respectability of a Swiss chalet, for it encourages visions of cosy bourgeois privacy to which a lot of Tory voters no doubt aspire. But it is Ronald Reagan chopping logs on his California ranch and thinking about whether he will or will not run for the presidency in 1984, who takes the prize in this department. His appearance displays everything that the ordinary American voter can desire - immense wealth and a healthy on-the-range life-style with a touch of the old frontier thrown in. The log-chopping play is not exactly new; Mr Gladstone thought of it first and even used to hand out the wood-chips to visiting Liberal delegations as souvenirs. But it effectively implies that this septuagenarian is a healthy man, a sort of type, well capable of carrying the burdens of the presidency for another four years, etc.

In short, this is exactly how Americans would like their president to relax and it is another example of Mr Reagan's apparently effortless ability to do the thing most likely to elicit sympathy and warmth from his fellow countrymen. Assuming that he does decide to run next year - and there is not a lot of doubt about it - it is the almost universal view of American commentators that this instinctive rapport will secure his election.

This is a phenomenon worth thinking about. What the conventional wisdom is stating is that Reagan will get a second term - partly because American presidents normally do get second terms but mainly because the American people, if forced to choose, would rather have a nice guy in the White House than a genuinely effective president. It goes without saying that a man like Jimmy Carter, whom the American people came to the conclusion is not "nice" in the required sense, under the American system cannot be an effective president; but we are now hearing something more startling than that. The implication is that there is very little that could be perpetrated or left undone in American domestic or foreign policy between now and November 1984 that would make much difference to the outcome of the election.

Those who find this sobering proposition unpalatable have two possible escapes, neither entirely satisfactory. The first is to say that

the whole thesis is an exaggeration. If, for instance, the President got involved in what could plausibly be labelled a "Vietnam situation" in Central America, or if the economy completely collapsed again, things might become very difficult. And if the "nice guy" image became tarnished by some personal scandal they would look very different indeed - hence the apparently ludicrous amount of attention given to the "Debategate" question of whether Mr Reagan was or was not party to the theft of Mr Carter's television notes in the 1980 election.

All this is true and sets realistic limits to Mr Reagan's popularity. But the fundamental point remains intact. The Atlantic alliance could fall apart, another Middle East war could break out, and another recession of quite serious dimensions be created under the Administration's ministry, says without reverting Mr Reagan's fortunes. People would simply say: "Well, OK, he's not the greatest; but he did his best and he's a hell of a nice guy."

The alternative response - and presumably the one that would be adopted by Mrs Thatcher - is that only disappointed Keynesians would delude themselves that Reagan will win in 1984 in spite of his policies. On the contrary, Reagan's popularity is due as much to his robust conservatism as it is to his boyish smile and winning ways. The American people, like the British, have cast off the shackles of wet liberalism and are now ready to applaud a leader who is publicly committed to rolling back the frontiers of the state at home and the menace of communism abroad.

But the trouble with offering this as the chief explanation of Reagan's popularity is that Reagan has been so bad at following his own prescriptions. Monetary policy, low budgets, low taxation, "supply side" growth - all these have been tried and either found impossible or wanting; then rejected in favour of something else and then tried again - and all without producing the lasting prosperity that was originally promised. The American economy is at last having its boom but interest rates and unemployment are at fearful levels and nobody has any great confidence that it will last. As for all the anti-Soviet rhetoric, there is nothing to show for it except an over-swollen defence budget which the Congress (not exactly insensitive to public opinion) has refused to pass. Moreover the internal relations of the Government are a shambles. Hardly a day passes without some press story of major rows.

The average American voter who observes all this cannot be expected to share the private view of most politicians and officials in Western Europe - namely that this is almost certainly the most dangerously incompetent American administration since the Second World War. But he is aware that the Conservative promise of cool, profitable, minimal government could hardly be further from fruition. What saves the President from the fate of Jimmy Carter, who was actually more efficient, is the lack of plausible Democratic opponent - and the national reverberations of an axe wielded on a California ranch by a nice guy in a lumberjack's shirt.

Philip Howard

Serving for a hole in one

If only I could get rid of the unforgotten errors, I should be a champion. The service is going better this summer. Well, put it this way: there are marginally fewer double faults, and the in-swinging first service delivered with a stiff arm and a hideous grimace has occasionally touched the line of the backhand court, and crashed into the net like a startled pheasant. But the backhand has developed a nervous and pitiful scoop that lobs the ball gently up towards the net and the volleys have been flying off the wood in whimsical directions like splinters in a sawmill.

The trouble about having a mother who won a Wimbledon doubles championship is that one thinks that tennis ought to come naturally by birthright, without coaching or practice. Every summer after watching the professionals at Wimbledon make it look easy, I think I am going to be a champion at last this year. Then on holiday I get out on the court, and fantasy gives way to reality and 0-40, set point, double faults. Are you quite sure it was out? Dammit.

Mind you, I blame the tools, like any bad workman. The racket is an obsolete pre-war make called "the Improved Phenomenon". It has lost a string or two at the edges, and has been warped by the Scotch mist. 50 summers into a lopsided and sinister irregularity like a grinning face. The court was home-made in 1931, when news of this strange new game had penetrated darkest Ayrshire, and everybody who was anybody in the county suddenly had to have a tennis court. "The qualifications of a fine gentleman are to eat à la mode, drink champagne, dance gigs, and play at tennis," - Thomas Shadwell in the seventeenth century. They are still trying up here in Ayrshire, without much success.

Our rude forefathers oriented the court directly east-west so that the sun flashes between the Scotch fir directly into the eye of the server at most times of day. Double, fault again? I cannot stand it. They surfaced it with the coarsest cheap granite that they used for the hill roads around here. This gives a sporting bounce that can turn a forehand at full stretch into a

backhand in the twinkling of an eye. The surface is hard on the ball, and wears through the gym shoes in three sets. It is cheaper to play in gumboots, and never to let the ball bounce, if only you can manage to hit your volleys in. And, whoops, there goes another one through the chicken netting into the matted jungle of thistles, bracken, and rhododendrons. I should think there must be several hundred completely bald lost tennis balls within 50 yards of where I am standing now. They will present a pretty puzzle to future archaeologists. A factory for manufacturing cult objects, or some sort of ritual trading system, like the shells of the Trobriand Islanders, would you say, professor?

The passage of time and gumboots has cracked the surface. The western end looks like the surface of the moon or the trenches on the sun. It plays like it too. It has been infected by a slimy creeping fungus like seaweed that manages inconspicuously to combine extreme slipperiness with extreme underlying abrasiveness. There is a distinct advantage for the home team against anybody who comes new and innocent to the court. On good days I fancy my chances on it against McEnroe - for the first set. I do not think that the grumpy old grunter would take kindly to the clouds of midges and horseflies that come out towards evening, filling the air and muzzing anybody unwary enough to open it.

The tattered chicken netting is interlaced with brambles and wild raspberry canes, so that frivolous tennis players have been known to disregard a service completely while guzzling yellow raspberries on the baseline. This fecklessness (or sensible order of priorities) can drive the server to despair (or at any rate two consecutive double faults). The balls disappear down the rabbit holes which have spread even inside the netting. Visitors from Mars would consider it an odd ceremony for a grown man to take games of tennis. But that is true of most games. Sam Johnson observed: "It is unjust to claim the privileges of age, and retain the plannings of childhood." Too right, Sam. But we still carry on.

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M MITTERRAND EXPLAINS

In his first major explanation of French policy in Chad, President Mitterrand has emphasized that French troops would not be restricted to "purely defensive retaliation" if attacked, and blamed Libya for escalating the fighting in the long civil war. This was a sensible acknowledgment that once seriously committed to military action, the French would find attack the best means of defence; it simultaneously warned Colonel Gaddafi that he should permit a peaceful settlement now rather than risk greater loss of face after a direct clash develops between French and Libyan troops.

By stating that while partition would be unacceptable, a federal solution might be possible and that he expected the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and United Nations to help arrange peace talks, President Mitterrand was making it easier for the Libyan leader to back down. But neither the OAU nor the UN have proved effective in such crises in the past. If it does come to war, Mitterrand has prepared the French public and answered his critics by pointing out that the slow buildup of French forces had both postponed the clash and revealed Libya to all as the aggressor.

The growing French involvement in Chad requires such delicate handling in both foreign and domestic policy that the President's reluctance to discuss the issues fully in public is understandable. But his careful answers to questions agreed beforehand in an interview published yesterday in *Le Monde* have failed to silence complaints that the population is not being

properly informed about a situation which arouses threatening memories of long years of bloodshed in Indochina and Algeria. Media rivals see the interview as a reward for the sympathetic coverage *Le Monde* has given President Mitterrand, and feel with some justice that a more open statement of policy is called for.

Few Frenchmen trust fully President Hissène Habré as representing their interests in Chad, remembering as they do his hostility as a rebel less than a decade ago, when for three years he held hostage the French anthropologist Mme Françoise Claustre. They fear that the presence of their troops may encourage him to launch a counter-offensive in the hope that the French would be compelled to increase their military commitment in restoring his position against Mr Goukouni Oueddei, who formerly, when President, also received French support.

According to a recent survey, little more than a quarter of those polled supported sending troops to Chad, while over half were opposed. President Mitterrand attempted to calm these fears by stressing that French troops would not be manipulated into participating in a counter-attack "France will not allow itself to be led where it does not want to go". This protestation does not, of course, exclude a counter-attack if provoked by the Libyan-backed forces.

It is important for President Mitterrand that he should not appear to be acting for Washing-

ton in attempting to contain Colonel Gaddafi's expansionism. He regards negotiation, rather than military conflict, as the best way of settling the war while preserving France's commercial interests in Libya. Last week *Le Monde* reported that President Mitterrand was irritated at what he regarded as US pressure and had emphasized that "French policy is made in Paris. Some of that irritation was still present in his latest statement when he commented that 'the Americans have been much taken up with us; yes, very much'".

This attitude helps deal with the left-wing critics who are particularly sensitive about accusations that a socialist government is pursuing in Africa the gendarme policy of Gaullist administrations. The Communists have voiced their anxiety about sending troops to Chad, but after pushing the Soviet line so strongly on the Geneva disarmament talks, they cannot expect to continue in government if they adopt too closely the Kremlin view that France is being edged by Washington into a "neo-colonialist venture, a Vietnam, Chad-style".

President Mitterrand's exposition yesterday contained a tough message for Colonel Gaddafi, warning him to withdraw without causing further bloodshed. This will clearly be strongly opposed by Mr Goukouni Oueddei, who can expect to gain little at the peace table. The Libyan leader is not famed for his moderation, but it is to be hoped that he will now realize that it is in his own best interests to respond in a reasonable way.

FAR AND FOREIGN CAPTIVITY

Overcrowded and ancient as they are, British prisons would rank respectably high in any Good Jails Guide compiled for the information of the cosmopolitan convict. At least in principle they accept the proposition that criminals are sent to prison as a punishment rather than for punishment, and that gratuitous harsh treatment is not an acceptable means of promoting a policy of deterrence. Prisons reflect the attitudes of the societies around them, and conditions that may appear rugged but humane to an Asian peasant may well seem intolerably rigorous to a western tourist who has been foolish enough to dabble in drugs. To the shared physical hardship is added the isolation of unfamiliarity with language and customs, and separation from friends and family. In some countries so little regard is paid to prisoners' rights that they are in constant danger of physical violence or untreated illness.

The simple individual remedy, of course, is not to get into trouble. But as international travel becomes easier the number of criminals who land themselves in prisons far from home is likely to increase. Such cases and the sympathy they sometimes arouse can become a significant irritant to good relations between countries, and

even a source of prejudice. The problem is complicated by the fact that sentences as well as conditions vary widely, according to how seriously different societies view each offence. This has been the chief stumbling-block to the development of the Council of Europe's convention on the transfer of prisoners to their own countries, which was signed yesterday by Britain.

The drugs trade provides some of the most difficult cases. A number of countries near the sources of the illicit drug trade have introduced heavy penalties at the urging of the western countries which are the main markets. They might not unreasonably accuse western countries of discrimination when they call for severity, while urging leniency for their own citizens. But equally it is difficult for a country where possession of soft drugs is a minor offence to make a citizen serve a very long sentence for it, imposed by a foreign court.

The only kind of agreement that is likely to be acceptable must allow for a good deal of give and take. The Council of Europe's convention is based on the principle that all three parties - the sentencing state, the prisoner's homeland and the prisoner himself - should agree

to each transfer. A homeland asking for repatriation will have to make clear in advance the conditions on which it is ready to take the prisoner (including what it means to do about remission, parole, and so on). In agreeing to the transfer the sentencing country will accept these terms. Difficulties would arise if one country considered that the prisoner had discharged his debt to society, while the other regarded him as liable to further penalties. There is room for friction here, but also for compromise.

For many prisoners, including some of the most harshly treated, the convention will be irrelevant - for those held for offences that are not regarded as offences at all at home, for instance and those held without trial, like Mr Kenneth Carmichael, held in Saudi Arabia for debt since 1981. The 16 countries which have signed do not include several where the problem is particularly acute, though the Home Secretary plans to seek bilateral agreements with others. But the convention is a step towards the creation of an international presumption that offenders abroad should not have the penalties imposed by the courts multiplied by the isolation and even hazards of captivity far from home.

FLIGHT PATH TO THE LAW COURTS

British Airways makes its first move in court today in its attempt to get a legal ruling against the Civil Aviation Authority. The authority has granted British Midland Airways a licence to run a shuttle service between Heathrow and Belfast in competition with British Airways' service. Midland is already challenging BA on the Edinburgh and Glasgow shuttles and has taken away a third of its market. Another airline, Dan-Air, has predatory eyes on BA's Heathrow-Manchester shuttle. The competition is threatening BA's domestic profitability. It wants to stop the rot - by stopping the competition.

The 1980 Civil Aviation Act requires the CAA when considering applications for licences to have regard "to the effect on existing air transport services provided by British airlines" of authorizing any new service. The airline argues that if the CAA

had had regard to the fact that more duplication of shuttle services would push BA's domestic services into deficit it could not reasonably have authorized it. But the courts usually take a lot of persuading to substitute their own view for that of a statutory body in these "duty-to-have-regard-to" cases. It is a long-shot law suit, a measure of BA's lack of confidence that if it took the normal route of appeal, which is to the Secretary of State, its profits would weigh more heavily with that umpire than the benefits to the customer of a spot of competition.

Lord King, chairman of British Airways, vigorously defends his recourse to law. "It is my job," he has told *The Times*, "to protect my business, and because it happens to be owned by a taxpayer that does not mean that I am not going to seek the protection the law offers me. As far as I am concerned I operate

British Airways as if it was in the private sector. While I try to be fair, I do not intend to go round being kind to my competitors."

British Airways almost is in the private sector. Lord King's task is to put the nationalized airline into suitable shape for the stockmarket. The irony of this latest twist in its fortunes cannot be lost on him. The virtue of privatization is that it imparts to the transformed corporation the stimulus and discipline of a fully competitive context. That is why it is done. In order to prepare itself for the salutary plunge (by inter alia preserving the profitability of its domestic operations) the airline goes to law to suppress competition, competition which is the object of the whole exercise. And its chairman justifies the move by invoking the ethos of the private sector. There is more to privatization than meets the eye.

proven record of disruption but because of sometimes erroneous or speculative information about their private or political activities. That personal information collected about an individual should be accurate, obtained lawfully, relevant to the purpose to which it was collected (e.g. job performance) and not disclosed in a matter incompatible with the principles set out in the Council of Europe Convention for the Protection of Individuals with regard to Automatic Processing of Personal Data, which the Government hopes to pass through its remaining stages in the forthcoming session of Parliament.

Unfortunately, the Bill in its present form will not safeguard people who lose jobs through

inaccurate and irrelevant information. Many of these records are held manually and therefore are not covered by the Bill. The Data Protection Registrar will be charged with enforcing the Act. However, with only 20 staff to deal with tens of thousands of computerized personal information systems he will be unable to be an effective monitor.

Thus a Bill which purports to protect personal privacy will not prevent the increasing use of "monitoring" or "blacklisting" systems and increased intelligence gathering about political beliefs and opinions as we enter 1984. Yours faithfully, MARIE STAUNTON, Legal Officer, National Council for Civil Liberties, 21 Tabard Street, SE1, August 18.

Vetting job applicants

From Ms Marie Staunton
Sir, The National Council for Civil Liberties has for many years advised job applicants who have been victims of the "monitoring systems" referred to in your article (page 1, August 15). Highly sensitive personal information about political affiliation, honesty, sexual orientation and mental health is passed between employers and through central agencies.

The individual concerned does not have the right to check whether the information is accurate, and sometimes it is not. This information transfer can and does ensure that these persons are unable to obtain employment not because of any lack of ability to do the work or

Heart of dilemma for the Liberals

From Mr Michael Meadowcroft, MP for Leeds West, (Liberal/Alliance)

Sir, Bernard Levin's article today (August 24) on the Liberals' approach to society, the kinds of values that are worth while and possible in the final years of this century, and the policies by which they can be achieved. These are the welcome and more legitimate targets for Mr Levin's incisive mind and fluent pen. Any lesser target is much too easy.

The difference between Bernard Levin and the working politician is that Mr Levin can write his commentary and then, if he so wishes, walk away from the problem. The MP or the councillor does not have that luxury; she or he has to find answers to the problems. One takes Mr Levin's advice very seriously but I only wish that it was as thoroughly thought through as his writing on Wagner.

Yours faithfully, MICHAEL MEADOWCROFT, House of Commons, August 24.

for the debating and testing of such ideas.

No party in its right mind deliberately stresses those parts of its programme that are the least attractive, but equally no party with any integrity pretends that there are solutions to our current malaise that do not require sacrifice on the part of the public.

It is not a question of a handful of Liberal policies that Mr Levin so cheerfully caricatures. It is an approach to society; the kinds of values that are worth while and possible in the final years of this century; and the policies by which they can be achieved. These are the welcome and more legitimate targets for Mr Levin's incisive mind and fluent pen. Any lesser target is much too easy.

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Yours faithfully, MICHAEL MEADOWCROFT, House of Commons, August 24.

From Lord Beaumont of Whitley

Sir, In writing about the Liberal Party Bernard Levin rightly identifies "deep in the psyche of the left... a belief in itself by no means noble, that power is corrupting and that the left was put on earth to resist corruption and to purify."

But he, somewhat surprisingly, fails to distinguish between the Liberal Party and the rest of the left. Among the latter he rightly states that the belief gives rise to schizophrenia.

Liberals, on the other hand, have realised (to adapt Francis Bacon very slightly) that "power is like a belief, not good except if it is spread". This is the foundation of democracy and needs to be taken further than we have taken it in this country.

It does indeed give rise in a highly centralised country to problems concerning means and ends, but it emphatically need not lead to the self-destruction to be seen in the rest of the left.

Yours faithfully, TIM BEAUMONT, (Past President, Liberal Party), 1 Hampstead Square, NW3, August 24.

Defence review

From Colonel James Ferguson

Sir, Your leader, "Rethink on the Rhine" (August 17) does the subject less than justice. To discuss the defence of the central region of Allied Command Europe without a mention of US forces, either in place or as reinforcements, or of the Allied air forces makes the analysis somewhat incomplete.

Neither is justice done to the major contribution made by the Federal Republic to the defence of the region, namely 12 well-equipped divisions and, after mobilization, a Territorial Army of 500,000.

It is true, however, that there has been a reluctance by West Germany to flex the military and political muscles concomitant with her economic power and geographic location. But it has to be said that where this characteristic has been apparent it has been welcomed, not least by those who have painful memories of the exercise of German military power.

Dumping at sea

From Dr L. E. J. Roberts, FRSE

Sir, Mr David McTaggart (August 16) criticises me for defending the position adopted by successive UK/British Governments on radioactive waste disposal in the deep ocean. In fact, this position is soundly based on technical and scientific observation and analysis.

It is not enough for Mr McTaggart to indulge in general criticisms of the "gaping holes" of the careful international assessments that have been made. Pessimistic assumptions were made whenever gaps in knowledge were recognised in the scientific work undertaken by the International Atomic Energy Agency before the very low limits allowed under the London Convention were agreed. It is a hard fact that none of the samples of fish or other marine organisms taken at the dump site has shown any increase in radioactivity above the increase found in any other area of the Atlantic.

The expert group convened by the Nuclear Energy Agency of the OECD reported clearly in 1980 that no hazard would arise from these operations. The London Convention itself states that proposals for change should be supported by fresh

scientific evidence. No such evidence relevant to the North Atlantic was produced in support of the resolution in February 1983, referred to by Mr McTaggart. A further meeting of the NEA was held in May, after the London Convention meeting, to examine the scientific evidence relating to the use of this site; this again concluded that the objections to its use were without foundation.

With respect, Sir, a detailed scientific controversy cannot be conducted satisfactorily in the correspondence columns of *The Times*.

The international experts who have taken part in these assessments have published their methods and arguments in full. Mr McTaggart should equally publish his criticisms in detail so that they can be evaluated, point by point.

We would of course reconsider our policy if fresh evidence pointed to significant hazard arising from these disposal operations; no such evidence has emerged.

Yours faithfully, L. E. J. ROBERTS, Chairman, Nuclear Industry Radioactive Waste Executive, AERE Harwell, Oxfordshire.

Islington finances

From the Deputy Leader of Islington Council

Sir, Lord Harris of Greenwich's attack on Islington Council (feature, August 9) contained a number of glaring errors of fact concerning its support for the Islington News co-operative. The co-operative is being given help by the council as a result of a detailed feasibility study that suggested the co-operative would be a sound commercial venture and would create 12 jobs. The Islington News will not be a "council publication" but an independent newspaper that will be free to criticise the council and its policies.

Mr George Cunningham, former SDP MP for Islington South and Finsbury, wrote on March 25 to Mr B. H. Skinner, the district auditor for the metropolitan district, asking him to enquire into the Islington News co-operative, with special reference to his alleged claim that the local Labour Party would have a

representative on the editorial board. Mr Skinner replied on June 21 and told Mr Cunningham that, on the contrary, financial assistance to the co-operative would be made subject to a number of conditions, including one that there would be no political party having representation on the editorial and advisory board of the Islington News.

Mr Skinner also quoted a resolution of the council's Employment (Grants and Financial Assistance) Subcommittee of April 18 to the effect that "the subcommittee will not consider applications for financial assistance from organisations with party political affiliations and the Employment and Development Committee be requested to concur with this decision." This is now the policy of the council.

Lord Harris is misinformed about the nature of the grants to the co-operative. The council is giving a grant of £17,000 over the two years towards the cost of premises, which

Universities unable to pull full weight

From Professor J. M. Thomas, FRSE

Sir, The authors of the Merrison report on the support of university scientific research, June, 1982, estimated that two thirds of the nation's fundamental research is carried out in the universities. This is a far bigger proportion than in any other country. Yet the amount of money allocated for it is meagre compared to the scale, success and wealth-creating influence of that work.

In 1978-79 the total British university equipment grant was estimated (Merrison report, p23) as £27m, which is less than the annual sums allocated for the same purpose by single, major US scientific companies. It is to be compared with the total UK expenditure on research and development for 1978 of £3,500m, of which the Government provided about half, and with the £40m that Hoechst, the West German pharmaceutical company, has just invested in a new research department in the Massachusetts General Hospital.

In the light of this situation it is ludicrous to claim, as did your research is breaking down because the universities are "skimping on research". The money is simply not there for the dual-support system to function properly.

In 1974-75 Government expenditure on equipment to the universities was savagely cut. Although some improvement has occurred since, the effects of that cut are still felt: by 1980-81 it had led to an

accumulated deficit on the equipment grant of about £220m. The universities do not have it within their power properly to replace obsolescent equipment; still less are they in a position, without outside aid, vigorously to pursue important new developments.

For example, a team of scientists in this university has recently explored a new magnetic resonance technique that is likely to serve several branches of physical science. The equipment needed to exploit it and train new graduates in its use costs £200,000, more than the university can afford to allocate to a single group. It will not be possible, therefore, to develop this work unless the Science and Engineering Research Council provides the bulk of the equipment.

Equipment costs of this magnitude are very common; they are an essential ingredient of modern scientific activity, from anatomy to zoology. Many of these costs should not be met by the SERC, the universities should possess adequate resources to support work and replace facilities that they themselves deem important. It is in the nation's interest that more funds are made available for properly equipping our universities. That was one of the recommendations of the Merrison report.

Yours faithfully, J. M. THOMAS, University of Cambridge, Lensfield Road, Cambridge, August 18.

CDC in Philippines

From the Chairman of the Commonwealth Development Corporation

Sir, CDC's primary aim is to take part in those projects which will be the most effective in raising the standards of living in the underdeveloped parts of the world. Mindanao is very undeveloped and a number of its inhabitants near the starvation line. The oil palm project to which we are committed to lending money will make a significant contribution to the prosperity of that part of Mindanao in which it is situated.

We have taken every conceivable measure to ensure that human rights are respected as far as the workers on the project are concerned. The Lost Command no longer has any role in the security of the estate. We have our own man resident in the area who is monitoring conditions at the project.

The opportunity to get a regular

job with a decent wage has more than the material benefit for those employed. The fact that there is benefit to the country as a whole in the productive use of land which has been largely uncultivated must be in the long-term interests of the Philippines people.

CDC's reputation has been built upon development projects in the agricultural sector which have benefited both the people individually and the economies of the countries in which we operate - and also, incidentally, the British taxpayer.

We have been operating profitably for more than 20 years. Letters such as Tom Clarke's (August 24) do not help either the people of Mindanao or the reputation of CDC. Yours faithfully, KINDERSLEY, Chairman, Commonwealth Development Corporation, 33 Hill Street, W1, August 24.

Body and mind

From Mr Anthony Young

Sir, Your unnecessarily astringent editorial, "Physician heal thyself" (August 10) does science an injustice by blaming the failure of modern "orthodox" medicine on the "scientific approach". It is the obsession with the method and the technology with subsequent loss of contact with the patient at a personal level that is at fault, not the "scientific approach" itself.

A great harm will be done if, in our haste to espouse the currently unorthodox, we lose sight of the fundamental scientific principle that the methods and results of any form of therapy must be carefully scrutinized to see if they are effective. Without these checks charlatans will be the ones that benefit, not the patients.

Doctors are cautious of the "unorthodox" because they like first to see proper evidence that these treatments help patients - as I believe many of them do. Surely that caution should be encouraged not denied.

Yours faithfully, ANTHONY YOUNG, The Consulting Rooms, York House, 199 Westminster Bridge Road, SE1, August 11.

Athletic hybrid

From Mr P. R. M. Burrows

Sir, Since it looks like a word derived properly from the Greek, "tetraathlon" (letter, August 23) must be, I suppose, marginally less objectionable than the obviously hybrid "quadathlon" used in your report.

Both words are, however, falsely derived from "marathon" in much the same way as that in which my own pet hate "triphobious" is derived from "amphibious".

Why not use the established and acceptable word "tetraathlon" instead of either?

Yours faithfully, P. R. M. BURROWS, Malt House, Kenning, Kent, August 23.

Pieces of silver?

From Mr John George Bull

Sir, The current vogue for offering large financial rewards for information leading to a prosecution appears to be welcomed by the police, particularly in relation to the search for the Brighton child molester.

One wonders if the implications have been fully appreciated. There is a strong possibility that someone who should have given information to the police last week as a public duty will receive a huge reward for his or her procrastination.

Furthermore, a future incident of this type there will be a temptation for vital witnesses to withhold information until they feel the accumulating bait has reached its peak.

Yours faithfully, J. BULL, Flat 20a East, High Street, Keynsham, Bristol, Avon.

Mermaid Theatre sale

From Mr Nicholas Reynolds

Sir, The announcement on your front page (August 12), of the proposed sale of the Mermaid Theatre is distressing.

More than 15 years ago members of staff and I attempted to set up a "Theatre Club" in the City of London School, minutes down the road from Puddle Dock. This was no easy task in a school whose catchment area was the entire commuter belt and a reluctance to stay on after hours to enjoy the opportunities of London's theatres was marked.

Bernard Miles gave us all possible help and encouragement. At the Mermaid we learnt what the art of the theatre really might be. We had high hopes of increasing cooperation between our exciting theatrical neighbour and the City's school.

Today, the move of the school to the muddy hole of the former Puddle Dock has still not been effected; and the Mermaid is to be sold. How do the City Fathers expect to educate their sons? Yours faithfully, NICHOLAS REYNOLDS, 2 Danube Street, Edinburgh.

Wind of class

From Sir Ronald Preston

Sir, In his amusing article on "Class warfare on the open road" today (August 2), in which he turns a psychoanalytical eye on the names of cars, your Correspondent finds himself plainly snubbed by the origin of the name "Passat". To him it is a "total mystery" to which he adds the gratuitous suggestion that perhaps it is the name "of an expensive resort in the Atlas Mountains known only to the rich Germans".

A glance at a German-English dictionary would have quickly dispelled the mystery for it gives Passat as the word in German for "trade wind", a name which could well have been included in the "male macho" list of car names. Yours faithfully, RONALD PRESTON, Beeston Hall, Beeston St Lawrence, Norwich, Norfolk.

THE ARTS

Cinema: David Robinson in London and Geoff Brown in Edinburgh

Savage and elusive study of cultural oppositions

Merry Christmas Mr Lawrence (15)
Camden Plaza: ABC
Shaftesbury Avenue

Lords of Discipline (15)
Plaza 2

Sir Laurens Van der Post calls Merry Christmas Mr Lawrence "this great and deeply moving film, the only war film I have seen that penetrates deep into the origins and meaning of war"; and, since Sir Laurens wrote the original stories on which the film is based (according to the credited script writer) worked on early versions of the scenario, he should know what he is talking about. Nevertheless he does rather overstate the case, and it might be fair to question whether the film is concerned with the origins and meaning of war at all, except to the extent that those origins reside in the cultural differences between peoples, which seem much more what the film is about.

Nagisa Oshima's films, but especially *The Ceremony* and *Empire of the Senses*, have all looked critically at Japanese character, society and tradition and the dangers of national preoccupation with death, with archaic codes of honour, with a jealous, hermetic, debilitating sense of racial identity. *Merry Christmas Mr Lawrence*, based on Van der Post's novel *The Seed and the Sower*, interwoven with the stories *A Bar of Shadow* and *The Sword and the Doll*, shows the Japanese in confrontation with people and ways of the West.

The setting is a prisoner-of-war camp in Java in 1942. The four main characters are neatly placed in quadrilateral opposition. On the Japanese side are the camp commandant, Captain Yonoi (Ryuichi Sakamoto), and his sergeant, Hara (Takeshi). Their English-speaking captives are Major Celliers (David Bowie) and Colonel Lawrence (Tom Conti), who was the first-person narrator of the original Van der Post books. Bridging the gulf of nationality, war, language and culture are spiritual and human connections.

From first sight, Captain Yonoi recognizes both a spiri-

tual and physical attraction to Celliers: the two young men share the same kind of purity and intransigence, and also a sense of guilt. Celliers is haunted by a boyhood betrayal of his young brother, Yonoi was away from Japan at the time of an officers' revolt, before the war, and feels he deserted the comrades who were executed for their part in it. Older, and more resigned to life's demands for compromise, Lawrence and Hara find simpler and more human points of contact. Lawrence speaks Japanese and so is able to communicate in language if not in sentiment. Hara from time to time succumbs to human frailties like getting drunk, making jokes and committing acts of kindness as well as cruelty.

The quadrangle offers a valid premise from which to explore the confrontation of opposing philosophies and wills and the human attractions which can remain stronger than national conflicts. In the event, though, the exploration is confused by an excess of incident - beatings, cruelties, fiascos, humiliations, challenges between captives and captor that look like the conventional stuff of POW drama. The sexual origins of Captain Yonoi's curiosity about Celliers, too, now seem understated to the point of mystery.

Oshima clearly first intended something far more open. We are prepared for the theme: the opening scene is the punishment of a Korean guard for having sexual relations with a young Dutch prisoner. It is evident again later in one of the most striking scenes of the film: Yonoi is submitting the whole camp to exceptional brutality, when Celliers breaks out of the ranks to embrace and kiss him. Yonoi swoons at the shock and shame. Between these points, though, the theme is fudged and evaded, explained away in terms of vague spiritual sympathy or laughed off in the embarrassed English way ("You know I think he's taken a shine to you").

The film is about cultural oppositions, and ironically cultural difference and confusion have, in the end, fogged the sense of it. Oshima worked with an English script writer, Paul Mayersberg, who talks about their collaboration in an interview published in a new magazine which the British Film Institute has concocted out of its old and useful *Monthly Film Bulletin*. Mayersberg describes how he found the Japanese style of scripting was to use a succession of separate short scenes "where we would run them together", and how for the scenes involving the



Celliers (David Bowie) challenges Yonoi (Ryuichi Sakamoto) over the threatened execution of the British C.O. (Jack Thompson)

western characters he decided to "westernize" the script. It is hard to say whether this was a good idea: certainly the film now - surprisingly for Oshima - lacks any distinctive style, western or eastern.

Bowie as actor is at the best of times unpredictable, clearly always in need of confident direction. This character is a

chameleon, responding conscientiously to the needs of the moment (when Yonoi calls him "an evil spirit" he instantly leaps into that role, for instance) but never presenting a clear and consistent face on which we can fix Yonoi's yearning. The mysteries of the role are compounded by a peculiar and somewhat embarrassing little

mime entertainment he lays on for his Japanese prison guards for no very discernible dramatic purpose. The professional attack and bribe of Tom Conti's Lawrence only add to the shadows surrounding Bowie's role.

Oshima has always expressed a preference for using non-professional actors, which - apart from the obvious commercial advantages - may explain his choice of Bowie, Ryuichi Sakamoto, a slightly built and beautiful rock musician who is Japan's equivalent to David Bowie, and Takeshi, a thick-set and irreverent stand-up comedian with a tremendous following in Japan, give to a western audience the most impressive performances in the film. Of course it may be different in Japan (where the film is a huge box-office success: the audience is unaccustomed to war films which show the enemy at close quarters); it is said that the public complaints of Sakamoto's mood and mumbled diction, and falls into paroxysms of inappropriate laughter at Takeshi's every move.

Lords of Discipline offers us an American equivalent to the peculiar combinations of brutality and superstitious ritual that make part of the Samurai code. Based upon a partly autobiographical novel by Pat Conroy, it is located in a fictitious but not wholly fantastic military academy in Caroli-

na in 1964. The hymn-singing is lusty, the discipline is killing and the zeal to root out racist and class impurities would do justice to the Hitler Youth.

Young Will (David Keith), with a greater sense of individuality and justice than his fellow cadets, begins to question the myth of honour above all when he discovers the existence of a hereditary secret Klan within the school, dedicated to exterminating undesirables and in particular a black boy who has fearlessly defied the WASP traditions of the place.

The first Hollywood film directed by Franc Roddam, the British director of *Quadrophenia*, it is professionally made, gripping in narrative and very unpleasant. Grasping for the best of all worlds, it offers the audience a feast of sadistic thrills, while encouraging them to self-righteous disapproval of the perpetrators. The film is presumably only one of a series we must now anticipate following the success of *An Officer and a Gentleman* - from which the excellent leading actor, David Keith, is inherited. He has very able character support from the stage veteran Robert Prosky and a cold-eyed villain, G. D. Spradlin, who is in private life an oil millionaire with an urge and talent to act. It is a curious footnote that the film was partly shot at Sandhurst after American military schools refused to allow their premises to be used for it.

Samuel Fuller's four-legged time-bomb

It is hardly tea-shirt weather in Edinburgh, but they are being worn just the same - the red ones scream "Merry Christmas Mr Lawrence" (Oshima's film opened the festival last Saturday), the black ones shout "The Oshima Gang". Oshima double-bills dominate the afternoon schedules: despite some colour prints that have faded away to the lines of a tired lobster, the films have provided much stimulation, taking us back to the Japanese director's beginnings in the early Sixties when he plunged local audiences into provocative stories of social turmoil and welded the Cinemascope frame like a clenched fist.

But the festival's undoubted highlight so far has been Samuel Fuller's magnificent *White Dog*, mostly hidden away by its bemused American distributor, Paramount, since completion in 1981 (though it has since surfaced successfully in France). Paramount's perplexity was primarily caused by its subject-matter (derived from a story by Roman Gary): how do you market a film about a German shepherd trained by bigots to attack Blacks and successfully avoid controversy? Yet the true provocation of Fuller's film lies

not in its material (clearly anti-racist) but in its style. Fuller declares his allegiance to the most basic of cinematic tools: the intense close-up, the editing cut that yokes together contrasting viewpoints.

White Dog tosses us back and forth between the dog's fierce stare, the implacable eyes of the black animal trainer attempting the dog's re-education and a cheeseburger dangled as bait; the simple technique generates immense emotional power. Fuller also pulls off several virtuoso thriller sequences, outlandishly concluding one of the dog's attacks with an out-of-camera mauling before a church stained-glass window representing St Francis. The script occasionally lags behind, though the right note of journalistic urgency is struck by the boyfriend of the dog's amazed new owner: "Come on, Julie, you've got a four-legged time-bomb!" Edinburgh is the ideal place for the film's British unveiling - in 1969, the film festival's Fuller retrospective spearheaded European appreciation of this dynamic cinema primitive.

Documentaries and independent films abound here; quality, as expected, scowls hour by hour. Friedhelm Brückner's

explorations into the world's remotest corners present a varied spectacle. In *Amakane* (1979), his intrepid crew visit an isolated Indonesian tribe with pleasant gifts of friendship and medicine; also they also bring the dreaded zoom lens. In *Splint*, made three years later, the camera's prancing are happily kept to a minimum: the modest lives of monks and farmers from the western Himalayas are relayed with uncluttered force and much scenic beauty.

The battle-scarred actor Sterling Hayden, subject of the documentary portrait *Pharos of Chaos*, looks from the Himalayas himself: bearded, clothed in sackcloth and sandals, with a mind half-lost in his own personal universe. Two young German film-makers, Wolf Eberhart Bühler and Manfred Blank, visit Hayden's riverboat in France and record his ramblings on drink, his Hollywood career and his craven appearance before the Un-American Activities Committee. Once one edits out the interrogative noises, the repetitions and anecdotal cul-de-sacs, there is fascinating substance in Hayden's words; we have to do the editing ourselves, however, as the film-makers seem even more dishevelled than their subject.

Theatre

Unpleasantly promising start

The Killing of Mr Toad
King's Head

The wistful charm of *The Wind in the Willows* suggests that it was a dream world into which the author, Kenneth Grahame, needed to escape. David Gooderson's play shows us what he was escaping from: marriage at 40 to a powerful lady called Elspeth after a grotesquely winsome courtship, a brief consummation on what they called the "poppyratoon", a long decline into lovelessness and withdrawal, and anxiety over their only son Alastair's sickness and inadequacy.

Dreaming of Mole, Ratty and Badger after her husband's death, Elspeth (Deborah Norton) murmurs that they are so like him. Toad is the exception; surprisingly enough, Toad was Alastair. Instead of the testy

middle-aged playboy of the E. H. Shepherd drawings, Rupert Graves bounds on and fills the stage with pop-eyed youthful effervescence.

So his death and not his father's is the play's subject. Half-blind from birth, mother-smothered and worshipped as a genius, bribed for love by both parents separately, he found the outside world a nasty shock - Rugby and Eton were torture, he repeatedly failed elementary exams at Oxford and met his death at 20 under a train.

But, apart from ominous suggestions of a childhood death-wish, the tragedy unfolds very late in the evening. Most of the time Alastair is bouncing insufferably about while Old Inferiority, as he calls his father (Robert Austin), broods untouchably or switches to his other self as Mole for an "Oh my, oh my" or two with John Warner's Ratty (also doubling as Quiller-Couch). Most excru-

ciating of all are the song interludes, retelling the words of Toad: dodgy or musical-favoured to make obvious, overstated comments about the home situation and eliciting performances to match. A family calling themselves Minkie, Dino and Mouse hardly need it.

It is an unsuccessful and generally unpleasant piece, but still a promising debut for Mr Gooderson, who is sometimes a clever and interesting writer. Especially in the widowed Elspeth's solo opening scene: Miss Norton stiffens her voice and movements to elderly gruffness with inimitable skill, barking at the postman, grumbling about the price of salmon and dumping her feet in a bowl of water before settling down to read advice from a spiritual friend about contacting her two men on the other side. Laurie Dennett's set gives her a dingy conservative living-room whose



Deborah Norton: inimitable skill

parquet-pattern lino and dim watercolours have a mustiness you can practically smell.

Anthony Masters

EDINBURGH FESTIVAL

LSO/Abbado
Usher Hall

Down at the Botanic Garden, they are playing the whole *Ring* in the Soli recording, down to dusk, to audiences of contemplatives seated in a circle round a pyramid of mirrors. Within the official festival Wagner's centenary was a little more modestly celebrated on Wednesday in a concert by the London Symphony Orchestra under Claudio Abbado, beginning less than happily with a witty performance of the Italian-composed *Faust Overture* and ending most oddly with the middle act of *Lohengrin*.

This unaccompanied choice brought us Siegfried Jerusalem for scarcely more than five minutes as a young hero of unwavering voice, but it did allow more opportunity to admire the Telemund of Hartmut Welker, expressively alert and musical, if not always able to ride the more awesome lower register while Miss Randova was all sweetness and light at the top.

However, an enterprise as

cock-eyed as this is not a fair trial of anybody's ability to sing Wagner, and the most dynamic moments came from the orchestra and chorus. The LSO were vigorous in their punctuation of the opening dialogue and made majestic noises later in the act underneath colossal imposing work again, as at Sunday's concert from the Edinburgh Festival Chorus trained by John Christie.

Wagner's companion on this programme was Webern, wisely represented at his loudest by the Six Orchestral Pieces, Op 6, though in the reduced scoring. Mr Abbado presented them as a funeral march wreathed in flowers. All vehemence was tightly suppressed except for a snarling snarl from the brass at the culmination of the march, followed by the percussion in a frenzy of battering. Otherwise the emphasis was on delicacy of phrasing, from solo wind particularly, though through it all came too the cold ferocity of the young Webern as seen in a remarkable portrait by Max Oppenheimer included in the Vienna 1900 exhibition.

So far the only music entirely unrelated to the festival's Viennese theme has come in the morning recitals, the first three of which have all included music by Debussy. On Tuesday it was the turn of his String Quartet, given a purposely unsympathetic account by the

Delmé Quartet, as if perhaps to merit it a place in the Viennese tradition. Textures were clear and forward, but not sparkling or clever; themes were played in the conversational manner of normal chamber music, not refined into super-exquisite. The Delmé also included a rarity, Capler's *Come Fantasia* on Poe's *Musque of the Red Death* with solo harp (John Marston). For as long as I have known of this piece, I have been intrigued. I am intrigued no longer.

Paul Griffiths

Melos Quartet of Stuttgart
Queen's Hall

The Edinburgh Festival's rediscovery of Zemlinzky took another brave step forward yesterday morning when the Melos Quartet from Stuttgart played the third of his four quartets. Composed in 1924, the piece belongs very much to the same period as *The Dwarf*, seen earlier in the week, and like that opera it is a tale of beauty and the beast.

Each of the four movements includes grotesque, stumbling little ideas, or pusillanimous ostinatos along with long melodies that may dance in the sunlight of a clear tonality but

are themselves sublimely free from the shackles of key. Often it turns out too, as it does in Zemlinzky's Second Quartet, that the crabbed motif and the airy line are drawn out of the same pattern of note: beauty and the beast are one.

That lesson comes over most forcibly in the second movement, a set of variations that begins as a gargoyle scherzo but becomes a much softer, warmer feeling before the carpet is pulled away again and we are left with a low second violin sounding over a mechanical accompaniment in desolation close to Shostakovich's.

There is a similar moment in the finale, entitled "Burlesque" and sometimes cleft by the irony Mahler associated with this title. But, whatever the links with other composers, this quartet lives in its own world of silvery shadows, and clearly it is a world in which the Melos feel quite at home: discreet and trepidation were qualities only of the composition.

In Mozart's fugue-finished G major Quartet and Schumann's A major they seemed rather to be taking the music back to their place, where the conveniences included supreme confidence, strong inner parts and unquestionable phrasing, but not much of Mozart's levity or Schumann's faintness of spirit.

Paul Griffiths

Concerts in London

Northern Sinfonia/
Knussen/Fischer
Albert Hall/Radio 3

Robert Saxton's *The Ring of Eternity*, which was given its first performance at Wednesday's concert, was commissioned not by the BBC but by Oliver Knussen, who conducted it. It is a most beautifully realized vision, suggested by the first lines of Henry Vaughan's poem *The World*: "I saw Eternity the other night/Like a great Ring of endless light..." Saxton says he has attempted to translate the details of Vaughan's opening lines into sound, but on a first hearing I was less aware of any literal equivalences than of a piercingly well-imagined panoply of sound, strikingly clear in outline.

The image of a ring seems less apt to describe what happens than that of antiphonal exchange: from the initial laying-out of piano, trumpet solo and wind chorus over strings, the impetus is continually shifted between the string group and the wind group. Sweeping figurations accumulate power through close imitation (though the effect is not the hypnotic one of Ligeti's similar procedure but that of a positive, dramatic unfurling of each idea), and much play is made with an ecstatic, trill-like passage of thirds.

Over this antiphony are single-line passages for the tuned percussion, and important, strident duets for the pairs of horns and trumpets: in an impressive moment just before the final climax, trumpets announce a rising theme in unison which is then split up with horns and drums added as if Vaughan's endless light were suddenly seen through a prism. The kaleidoscopic build-up of sound is then maintained until the last moment, though the effect of the sudden close is not to prolong the vision into eternity but to snatch it rudely from our eyes.

Oliver Knussen conducted a firm, coherent account of the score. The remainder of the concert, conducted by Ivan Fischer, was despatched undisturbed. In Imogen Cooper's account of Mozart's F major Piano Concerto, K459, there were many points of admirable musicianship, but her discursive playing had no sharp focus and she was continually undermined - as were Stravinsky and Beethoven elsewhere in the evening - by Fischer's crashty obvious direction.

Nicholas Kenyon

Vasary/Hirst/
Langridge
Queen Elizabeth Hall

Janáček has made his last appearance at this year's South Bank Summer Music, and with him the spirit of Kamila Stösslova, the woman behind both the *Vixen* and the Second String Quartet.

On Wednesday she appeared as Zefka the gypsy girl, in a

performance of the *Diary of One who Disappeared* by Philip Langridge. Linda Hirst and Tamas Vasary which was utterly compelling in its fusion of meticulous, minutely observed detail and vibrant unpredictability.

It was a pity that the opportunity was missed to exploit the hall's facilities and grant for once Janáček's wish that this drama of dream, seduction and surrender "be sung in semi-darkness, if possible with reddish lighting"; and a pity, too, that the performers did not risk even longer, more eloquent pauses at crucial dramatic points.

But this was a performance of subtly flickering, volatile emotions, rather than of overtly dramatic strokes: in Mr Langridge's voice, passion would quiver through a portamento, tenderness blend into harmonic change, and muscle flex to the full only to carry the force of Janáček's arching "melodic curves of speech", as in his final fierce and resilient top C.

Linda Hirst's was a strange and strong-edged vocal characterization, with the three off-stage voices (Sarah Leonard, Judith Rees and Joyce Jarvis) providing, in their perfectly judged acoustic balance, a haunting distancing right at the drama's heart.

Dialogue, reflection and undercurrent were indivisibly shared in Mr Vasary's piano playing.

Hilary Finch

Television Complex frights

Walter Cronkite, who looks very much like a contemporary version of Big Brother, presented 1984 (BBC1) with that heavily portentous tone which seems typical of American television journalists. He also had his own brand of newsmanship: "Fame came late to George Orwell... What kind of man gave shapes and names to the darkest fears of our age? Certainly a complex man...". And so he went on, adding the usual litany of bad news: Khomenei, Afghanistan, computer banks and torture in South America. Then his own computer produced from the photographs of six dictators a composite portrait of the Orwellian tyrant: the result was the face of a Mexican bandit. We need not fear computers as long as they show no signs of imagination.

As is often the case with American programmes which attempt to deal with some important issues, it was interesting only for the fright light which it cast upon contemporary American society. There are now a range of ingenious phrases, for example, which shield bureaucrats from ordinary life. An explosion is referred to as an "energetic disassembly"; one is no longer sacked but "relocated out" or "debriefed". This was a programme, however, to be unswitched or destorted.

The sight of the Public Records Office, in Secret (BBC 1), would have kept Orwellians content for days: here was the next best thing to a Ministry of Truth. Christmas cards sent by MI5 officers in 1918 are still classified as secret: perhaps the idea of a "seasonal message" sounded sinister. And researchers have only just been given access to a dusty confidential file, only to discover that it contained a synopsis from the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*.

The programme attempted, in what was apparently supposed to be a jocular manner, to investigate the general secretiveness of British society and suggested, quite rightly, that most officials enjoy the experience of being entrusted with "confidential" information. It gives them something not to talk about. It seems, by the way, that civil servants really do hang net curtains at the windows of their offices; they are the Brighton landladies of government.

Peter Ackroyd

● The Haifa Municipal Theatre presentation of *The Soul of a Jew*, reviewed on Wednesday by Irving Wardle in Edinburgh, is to play at Riverside Studios from next Monday to Thursday.

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1982/1983

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Fraser shares jump 16p

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began, Aug 15. Dealings end, Sept 2. Contango Day, Sept 5. Settlement Day, Sept 12.

Shares in House of Fraser jumped 16p yesterday to 244p on persistent buying from about five main sources.

One market trader was suggesting that Mr Jack Hay, the Bahamas-based millionaire, had picked up a further 250,000 Fraser shares taking his total to 2.5 million.

At that level his stake is worth more than £6m.

A substantial drop in business volume before the bank holiday weekend gave stock market traders the breathing space needed to steady prices after the sharp fall on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Although the slight increases against the leaders was technical there was little genuine investment demand.

Activity was once again dominated by company news and bid rumours. By the close the FT 30 index showed a marginal gain of 0.8 at 717.4.

Dealers have been warily eyeing the gilt-edged sector to see if any movement there could support a renewed upward climb but they were disappointed by gains of only £1/8 where changed.

Only the index-linked sector bucked the trend with gains of more than £1. Investors once again attracted by the 3 per cent to 4 per cent return over inflation offered by the sector.

Fears of a higher inflation rate between now and next year were an added incentive. Traders discounted views that the Government might nudge interest rates downward to give a boost to the economy.

Despite sentiment dampened by a lack-luster Wall Street the failure of any further American sales of Glaxo and ICI helped steady leaders. Glaxo dropped 10p to 800p, while ICI were 4p better at 428p.

Confirmation that Morgan Guaranty is to begin trading Boots shares in the form of American Depository Receipts from next week gave the shares a 5p boost to 78p. That comes after news of clearance for Boots to sell its new pain-killing

drug Ibuprofen over-the-counter in America.

Elsewhere, among the leaders Blue Circle fell 13p to 433p on the disappointing figures, although chairman Mr John

climbed 10p to 178p. Dale Electric disclosing profits up 73 per cent, and duly firmed 5p to 88p.

Buy recommendations prompted a 22p gain in the shares of Miss World, though a likely bid candidate, and 10p in Stobart and Pitt, up 10p at 108p.

News that Norwich Union had withdrawn its acceptance of BPCC's takeover offer the games maker John Waddington stopped BPCC from declaring victory.

Waddington shares held steady at 261p, while BPCC gained 2p to 108p. BPCC is now expected to extend its offer for a second time.

Another bumper profits performance came from LBC Refrigeration, profits up 90 per cent and the shares up 30p to 280p.

Leading oils saw early gains trimmed as Britoil reported its

figures which left the shares unchanged at 240p.

News that Gulf is after all to develop its offshore Irish oil

find prompted buyers to rush into Atlantic Resources and Eglinton which have both

been cut severely. Atlantic Resources jumped 40p to 325p while Eglinton jumped 30p to 180p.

A new share to join speculative oil exploration favourites was Invest Energy, drilling in France, up 22p at 225p.

The mining finance sector saw a little action yesterday as Consolidated Gold Fields

moved up 3p to 268p ahead of figures due in about a fortnight.

The group, which was the subject of secret share-buying

sprees three years ago, has been checking out mystery share-

holders again. It said all nominees have owned up.

Consolidated's largest shareholder is Minorco, controlled

by the South African businessman Mr Harry Oppenheimer, a

company which has been accumulating vast amounts of

cash.

Wayne Lintott

MARKET REPORT

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RECENT ISSUES

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Sterling: Spot and Forward

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Investment and Finance

City Editor
Anthony Hilton

THE TIMES

City Office
200 Gray's Inn Road
London WC1X 8EZ
Telephone 01-837 1234

STOCK EXCHANGES

FT Index: 717.4 up 0.8
FT 100: 79.71 up 0.8
FT All Share: 456.14 up 1.82
Bargains: 19,701
Datastream USM Leaders
Index: 100 up 0.73
New York: Dow Jones
Average (latest): 1181.71
down 2.54
Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones
Index 9143.07 down 4.27
Kongkong: Hang Seng
Index 981.91 down 0.27
Amsterdam: 146.8 down 2.9
Sydney: AO Index 697.7
down 10.7
Frankfurt: Commerzbank
Index 933.30 down 3.20
Brussels: General Index
133.45 down 0.42
Paris: CAC Index 137.7 up
0.3
Zurich: SKA General Index
285.2 down 0.5

CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE
Sterling \$1.5080 down 1.1
cents
Index 84.7 down 0.9
DM 3.9750
Fr 11.9750
Yen 366.50
Dollar
Index 127.6 up 0.1
DM 2.6385

NEW YORK LATEST
Sterling \$1.5030
INTERNATIONAL
ECU 0.570857
SDR 0.692933

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates:
Bank base rates 9%
Finance houses base rates 10
Discount market loans week
fixed 9%
3 month interbank 9%
Euro-currency rates:
3 month dollar 9%
3 month DM 5%
3 month Fr 15-14%
US rates:
Bank prime rate 11.00
Fed funds 9%
Treasury long bond 103%
ECGD Fixed Rate Sterling
Export Finance Scheme IV
Average reference rate for
interest period July 6 to August
2, 1983 inclusive: 9.988 per
cent.

GOLD

London fixed (per ounce):
am \$422.50 pm \$423.26
close \$423.50 \$280-280.75
unchanged
New York latest: \$423.25
Kruggerand (per coin):
\$436-437.50 (\$289-290)
Sovereigns (new):
\$99.75-100.75 (\$66-66.75)
*Excludes VAT

TODAY

Interim: Martin Black, L. M.
Ericsson, Exeter Building and
Construction, Investment Trust
of Guernsey, Miss World
Group, Scottish Northern In-
vest, Wagon Finance, Ward
Holdings.
Finals: Highgate & Job,
Raybeck.
Economic statistics: None
announced.

ANNUAL MEETINGS

Davenport Knitwear, Allen
House, Newark Street, Liver-
pool (11.30)
Lennon Group, Lord Daresbury,
Warrington, Cheshire (noon)
Cumberland Road, off Honey-
pot Lane, NW9 (11.30)
Sogomana Group, 185 St
Vincent Street, Glasgow
(12.00)

Trade figures hit sterling

Sterling was under sporadic
pressure in the foreign exchange
markets yesterday because of
the poor July trade figures and
recent gloomy forecasts for the
economy.
Market trading was thin as
sterling fell 1.1 cents against the
dollar and closed at \$1.5080.
Against the German mark, the
pound fell below DM4, closing
3.5 pence lower on the day at
DM3.9750, and it lost 10
centimes against the French
frank to Fr11.9750.
The pound's trade-weighted
value against a basket of
currencies ended the day 0.9
lower at 84.7.
The dollar was on the
sidelines after its volatile
movements of recent weeks but
ended fractionally higher
against the mark at DM2.6365
up 15 points.

● **Luxembourg** International
finance is raising a Dm75m
(\$19m), seven-year Eurobond
with a yield of 9 per cent.
Market sources have reported.
The bond is priced at par.

Battle for games manufacturer is not over, says BPCC chief

Waddington beats off Maxwell as institutions switch allegiance

By Jonathan Clark

An about-turn by three
institutional shareholders
yesterday snatched an expected
victory from Mr Robert Maxwell
in his battle for control of
John Waddington, the Monopoly
games manufacturer.

The three institutions with-
drew their support of the
£18m bid from Mr Maxwell's
British Printing and Communi-
cation Corporation at the
eleventh hour. News of the
about-turn came as Mr Maxwell
was ready to declare that he had
received more than 50 per cent
acceptance, and the bid was
therefore unconditional.

The three institutions
account for 5.5 per cent of
Waddington's shares. This
holding, together with the
support already promised to the
Waddington board from hold-
ers of 46.2 per cent makes it
impossible for Mr Maxwell to
declare his offer unconditional.

The most significant change
of heart came when the
Norwich Union insurance
group, which has 4.4 per cent
stake, responded to a direct
appeal from the Waddington
chairman, Mr Victor Watson,
and managing director Mr
David Perry.

The other about-turn came
from the Scottish Amicable life
insurance company, which has
about 0.9 per cent of the shares,
and a smaller holder with 0.2
per cent.

Scottish Amicable said last
night that it had previously
accepted the cash alternative
but withdrawn and "sold at a
higher price to parties presum-
ably friendly to the Waddington
camp."

Later Mr Maxwell said: "The
battle is not over yet - people
can come and go from their
side as well, you know."
He intends to extend his
share offer today from its
present closing date of this
afternoon. No decision on the
period has been taken but the
offer cannot be extended be-
yond two weeks under takeover
rules.

The Norwich Union had
accepted the BPCC share offer
but the Scottish Amicable had
opted for the cash alternative
which closed last week and
cannot be re-opened. Share-
holders who accept a takeover
bid can withdraw before it is
declared unconditional.

Mr Maxwell said: "I regret
the withdrawal of acceptance
which presumably is largely due
to people who accepted the cash
offer of 249.5p which they
would receive in several weeks
time if the offer goes uncon-
ditional. By withdrawing they
can get a higher price in the
market. It is possible that
purchasers in the market will
accept the BPCC offer."

But Kleinwort Benson,
Waddington's advisers, said
that it was merely a change of
alliance after a re-appraisal by
the shareholders of the com-
pany's prospects.

Mr Maxwell added: "I have
had several Waddington's
shareholders complain that they
had up to eight telephone calls
from the company urging them
to withdraw their acceptance.
This borders on harassment."

Mr Maxwell's advisers will
now lobby hard to get some of
the pro-Waddington board
shareholders to change their
minds.

Kleinwort Benson said that
Mr Maxwell had no new infor-
mation to give shareholders, he
could not make a new offer
under the Takeover Panel's
rules and the cash offer had
already closed.

But the firm admitted that
although the battle had "taken a
fundamental turn", the fight
was not yet over.

Waddington has enjoyed the
support of two big shareholders,
Britannic Assurance and M&G,
which account for about a fifth
of the shares.

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of the shares.

CCC will also have an option
for 10 years to buy another
£7.7m shares at par, and has
agreed to make a £1.87m
secured loan to Capper-Neill,
bringing its total injection to
£6m.

The balance sheet will also be
strengthened by the banks
contributing £7m of the existing
overdraft into 7% redeemable
preference shares of £1 each.
These will not carry a dividend
for the first two years but will
have coupons of 8 per cent in
the third and fourth years and
10 per cent in later years.

The banks have undertaken
to convert £14m of the over-
draft into a £14m secured loan
over 10 years.

Capper-Neill has big con-
struction interests in the Middle
East and it is understood that
disagreements over the com-
pany's title to contracts and to
the amount from these con-
tracts led to some of the
extraordinary debts.

CCC's major construction
firm in the Middle East, and has
won contracts in Saudi Arabia
and the Gulf.

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City Editor's Comment

Cash flow problems on a massive scale

Brazil's original multi-
billion dollar rescue pack-
age fell apart because it was
too small and Brazil was
unable to meet conditions
imposed by the Inter-
national Monetary Fund.
Bankers are now working
on the second phase. But
even if events proceed
smoothly in the next few
months, it is far from clear
who is going to do the
bailing out this time.

The immediate problem
is Brazil's worsening liqui-
dity crisis. This led Brazil to
suspend payments on official
debts - about one-tenth
of the \$60bn total - after
Professor Antonio Delfino
Neto planning minister flew
to France to approach the
Paris Club of Western
government lenders.

But arrears to banks are
now put at £1.3bn and
rising and interest pay-
ments are said to be 53
days overdue. This is
dangerously close to the 60
days which would force
American banks to classify
these loans as non-perform-
ing for all to see.

To reduce arrears, bank-
ers look likely to unblock
the rest of the \$2.9bn jumbo
loan suspended when Brazil
fell foul of IMF conditions.
So far \$1.6bn has been
released but including a
drawing due next month,
\$800m is now being with-
held.

Secret meeting
The drawings are tied to
release of IMF money, but
there will be no more of this
until late September or
October, after the IMF
board has formally ap-
proved a new programme
for Brazil.

The commercial banks
could easily waive this
condition. Professor Neto
met M Jacques de Laro-
siere, managing director of
the IMF, secretly in Paris
this week. A nod from him,
indicating that the IMF is
happy, would probably be
enough. Many bankers are
expecting a request along
these lines from the ad-
visory group of banks.

By the end of the month
Brazil will also be about
\$530m overdue on repay-
ments to the Bank for
International Settlements.
Assume the BIS sticks to
its present policy of not
rolling over the loans but

not calling them in default.
Assume also that the IMF
board approves a new
programme for Brazil and
the Brazilian Congress
passes the new tough mea-
sures demanded. These are
big assumptions but if it
works out that way Brazil
should then be able to
repay the BIS with loans
released by the IMF.

Then, however, the real
problems start. How to
satisfy Brazil's external
funding needs of about
\$2.6bn for the rest of this
year and \$3.9bn next year?
Commercial bankers are
adamant that they cannot
fork out the whole \$6.6bn
and the popular assumption
is that governments/official
agencies will chip in at least
\$1.9bn. Quite who these
governments/official agen-
cies are remains a mystery.

Crippling Debts
As for the commercial
banks, those with large
exposures to Brazil may
feel there is no alternative
to pumping in large sums.
But will they be able to
persuade their smaller
brethren to contribute to
what could be one of the
biggest syndicated loans
ever, for a country in
Brazil's position?

Even the bullying of the
IMF and central banks
may not be sufficient.
Interest payments on its
huge debts are crippling
Brazil and any amount of
internal economic adjust-
ment is not going to reduce
that burden.

Barring another historic
loosening of the monetary
reins by the Federal Re-
serve to bring down interest
rates, along the lines of its
action last summer when
Mexico was teetering on
the brink, both banks and
governments may be forced
to consider much more
painful and radical mea-
sures.

Banks may have to
consider such taboo options
as rescheduling interest or
reducing it in the form of
trade credits.

Governments, for their
part, will have to recognize
that the banks cannot do it
all on their own. And if this
lends greater urgency to the
search for long-term solu-
tions to the debt crisis, so
much the better.

BSR back in profit as debts decline

By Andrew Cornelius

BSR International, the audio,
electronics and kitchenware
group, is back in profit at the
interim stage after its make-or-
break capital reconstruction this
year.

Mr Bill Wylie, chairman,
who masterminded the £20m
cash call which made the
refinancing possible, yesterday
reported pretax profits of £6.2m
for the six months ending June
30, against losses of £1.8m at
the same stage last year and
losses of £1.5m for 1982.

Mr Wylie said at BSR's new
corporate headquarters in
Hongkong that he is looking for
a further significant improve-
ment in profits during the
second half of the year. An
indication of the board's con-
fidence in progress is the promise
to recommend payment of a
final dividend of at least 1.5p
this year.

The refinancing helped cut
short-term debts from £42m at
the end of December, 1982, to
£2.8m today. Total group debt
has fallen from £107m after the
rights issue in March.

The interim results include
the £1m costs associated with
the closure of a loss making
Capetronics electronics factory
in the US, and losses of
£800,000 from BSR's British
operations, which employ 4,000
people in the West Midlands.

The British audio and kit-
chenware businesses should be
trading in the black by the end
of the year.

An important part of the
group's strategy in Britain is to
switch production to new
growth areas.

Mr Wylie said that there will
be further rationalization and
divestment of activities within
the group, but no redundancies
are planned in Britain.

BSR's shares rose by 10p to
178p.

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178p.

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Blue Circle dividend disappoints market

By Jeremy Warner

Blue Circle Industries, Brit-
ain's biggest cement producer,
yesterday reported a small fall
in pretax profits for the first half
of this year.

But Mr Gordon Marshall,
deputy managing director, ex-
pects better results for the
remainder of the year in Britain.
Overseas, the group should
benefit from its recent North
American acquisition while
Latin American countries are
beginning to show marginal
improvements after the rock
bottom results in the second
half of last year.

Pretax profits fell from
£51.5m to £48.2m. The group
has adopted a new method of
accounting for depreciation and
the comparable figure has been
restated as a result.

Blue Circle Industries
Half-year to 30.6.83
Pretax profit £48.2m (£51.5m)
Stated earnings 26.5p (31p)
Turnover £40.6m (£37.7m)
Net interim dividend 6p (same)
Share price 431p down 15p Yield 6%

The profits fell short of stock
market expectations and the
shares in the FT 30 share index
fell 15p to 431p. The unchanged
interim dividend of 6p also
caused some disappointment.

Improvement in Britain is
expected to be maintained in
the second half when domestic
profits will also benefit from a
full six-month contribution
from Aberthaw, bought last
March for £26m, the conversion
of the Northfleet and Shearham
cement works to a more energy
efficient process, and other cost
cutting measures.

Provision for corporation tax
is also being made by Blue Circle
at a rate of 52 per cent in the
proforma year, provision during
seven months was at 27 per cent
and, for the remaining five
months, 52 per cent.

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IN BRIEF

Bigger stake for Holmes a Court

Mr Robert Holmes a Court,
the Australian financier, has
increased his holdings in Fleet
Holdings, the Express News-
papers group, from 3 per cent to
4.2 per cent, he confirmed in
London yesterday. Mr Holmes
a Court continues to make no
comment on whether he wants
to bid for Fleet in addition to
his present offer for Australia's
largest company, Broken Hill
Proprietary. He said he is
satisfied with his holding at
present "but in 10 minutes time
I may not be".

● **Lee Refrigeration** reported
half-term profits yesterday of
£2.01m - nearly double last
year's disappointing interim of
£1.1m. Shares rose on the
figures from 250p to 280p - a
new high.

Turnover was up from
£20.28m to £21.98m and
earnings per share nearly
doubled from 13.18p to 25.69p.
The charge went up from
£31.0m to £31.8m.

● **Carpet International** re-
turned to the black for the first
time in four years during the
first half of 1983. On sales down
from £54.4m to £40.7m, pre-tax
losses of nearly £5m were
turned into profits of £790,000.

● **Nigeria** said it will not
support a move to raise the
Organization of Petroleum
Exporting Countries benchmark
price of \$29 a barrel, and would
prefer to increase its pro-
duction.

Supply Sizewell with the main
forgings because of the exten-
sive qualification tests required
for components for pressurized
water reactors.

The CEGB is, however,
considering providing research
funds to enable Sheffield For-
gemasters to meet future orders if
the PWR programme goes
ahead after the public inquiry
into the Sizewell project.

In the coming year the CEGB
will reduce its purchases of coal
from the Coal Board and will
pay a price slightly below 3 per
cent above present contracts.

WALL STREET

INVESTORS' NOTEBOOK ● edited by Michael Prest

•

BBA Group
Half-year to 30.6.83.
Profit £2.2m (£2.2m).
Turnover £7.2m (£5.2m).
Share price 191p down 1p. Yield 3.5%.

recovery this year. A profit forecast is unlikely at this stage, but could be made if Norcross increases its offer.

[illegible]

APPOINTMENTS

Change at Midland

Midland Bank Mr Hugh O'Brien, group treasurer, Thomas Cook, is to be assistant general manager (financing operations).

The British Overseas and Commonwealth Banks' Association: Mr Peter Wellman, general manager of Standard Chartered Bank, has been elected deputy chairman. Mr G. T. Watson has been appointed honorary secretary.

Sam Alliance Insurance Group: Mr J. Rochelle, manager, computer department, is to be group computer manager of management services and planning division. Mr E. G. Coward is now group commercial underwriting manager with responsibility for home division commercial underwriting and overseas division international underwriting.

Hawker Siddeley Group: Mr S. D. Goward has joined the board of Brook Control Gear as director and general manager. Mr J. L. Fleming has been appointed to the board of Crompton Instruments (South East Asia), as director and general manager.

Supra Sureparts: Mr A. A. Long has become managing director.

Kaskida Securities: Mr William Tyne is joining the board with special responsibility for the company's capital markets activities in the U.S. He will be based in London.

WARRINGTON NEW JERSEY LTD., 20-21 Broad St., St. Helens, Merseyside, Ch. 10. 0234 74710	
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Base Lending Rates

ABN Bank	9 1/2 %
Barclays	9 1/2 %
BCCI	9 1/2 %
Citibank Savings	10 1/4 %
Consolidated Crds	9 1/2 %
C. Hoare & Co	9 1/2 %
Lloyds Bank	9 1/2 %
Midland Bank	9 1/2 %
Nat Westminster	9 1/2 %
TSB	9 1/2 %
Williams & Glyn's	9 1/2 %

† Mortgage rates vary.
* 7 day deposits on basis of notice:
£10,000, 6%, £25,000 up to
£50,000, 7%, £50,000 and over,
8%.

Marketing and advertising: Torin Douglas

How the building societies have forgotten about profitability

BUILDING SOCIETY ADVERTISING 1981/82

(£'000s as measured by Mead, "broad" rate card)

	1981			1982		
	Spend	Rank	%TV	Spend	Rank	%TV
Halifax	4625	2	53	6808	1	65
Abbey National	4574	1	31	5228	2	25
Leeds Permanent	3579	3	44	4650	3	69
Bradford & Bingley	2504	6	35	4481	4	30
Nationwide	2393	5	48	3755	5	52
Anglia	1614	7	57	2763	6	65
Woolwich	2065	4	70	2480	7	76
Leicester	775	8	-	1795	8	57
Alliance	489	12	-	1826	9	88
Provincial	1150	9	36	1848	10	50

Of all the areas of business which have discovered Marketing in recent years, few have embraced it with more enthusiasm than the building societies. Heavy television advertising campaigns, wave after wave of "new products" in the form of higher interest accounts aimed at different groups of savers, and the use of popular children's characters such as Mickey Mouse and Paddington Bear all testify to the eagerness with which the hitherto staid and slow societies have taken on board the lessons of the cornflake and soap powder companies.

Despite recent problems, the change of approach and huge increase in marketing expenditure (£44m on advertising last year, compared with £4m ten years ago) seems at first sight to have been amply justified. Last year the building societies recorded the highest net receipts in their history and all but one of the top ten societies, which tend to be the biggest spenders, increased their assets by 17 per cent or more.

"Perhaps that suggests that societies' marketing strategies were highly successful," says one building society executive, Mr Richard Lacy, and most societies might agree. "I believe that is a very naive view of our industry's performance," he adds.

"Many societies seem to me to have spent much of the last two years raising extra funds at the highest cost, advertising premium-rate accounts and transferring a huge volume of profitable share account funds. This, to me, is not carefully planned marketing - it is the strategy of growth at all costs."

Mr Lacy is not against building societies spending heavily on advertising and marketing. Indeed, as general manager in charge of marketing at the Leicester Building Society, he has spent as much as most on television commercials and launch of new schemes, most notably the Leicestercard and a tie-up with National Girobank that has given the society 20,000 new Post Office outlets. The Leicester was the 10th biggest society last year, with assets of £2,060m.

His concern is that most societies have lost sight of the need for profitability in the face for growth and market share. In this, they are no different from some consumer marketing



On the road: touring building society in TV commercial

concentrating the society's marketing efforts on increasing its share account business, rather than that of the premium interest accounts, which is what most building societies promote these days. The share account, because it pays out less interest, is naturally the most "profitable", and last year 62 per cent of the Leicester's investment balances was held in share accounts.

This was the highest proportion of any society in the top 16; by contrast, the five biggest societies averaged 56.6 per cent

of their business from share accounts and the next 11 only 50 per cent. Three years ago, nearly 80 per cent of the industry's funds was held in share accounts.

The marketing challenge for the Leicester was to make its share account attractive to investors, despite the fact that every other building society was offering the same rate of interest and that other societies had more branches. The answer to the first problem was the Leicestercard - a discount card available to share account

holders - and the other was the link-up with National Girobank.

The Leicestercard was devised by Mr Lacy and his newly-appointed advertising agency, Wight Collins Rutherford Scott.

According to Mr Robin Wright, the agency chairman: "Research showed us that there was no great difference in the minds of the public between the Leicester and other societies, so we developed the Leicestercard as a 'separator', to distinguish

The Leicestercard offers share-account holders cheque book accounts and personal loans, together with discounts on a wide range of goods and services.

The launch, in February last year, received great publicity even before the first advertising positioning the Leicester as the "Mostester" began. "In the space of 10 months, we received applications for 125,000 Leicestercards," says Mr Lacy. "We have now had more than 200,000 and by the end of the year it will be 300,000."

In the month after the launch, the Leicester opened a record number of accounts and the growth has continued.

Yet the fact remains that the other big societies drew in deposits faster last year by their credit method of offering interest premiums. The Leicester now seems likely to hedge its bets and follow the other societies' tactics in addition to its own marketing efforts.

The five biggest societies are to offer a 1 1/2 per cent differential over basic share rate from September 1, and Mr Lacy believes that Leicester has at least built a stronger springboard from which to challenge them on their own terms. An announcement is possible within the week.

DEREK CROUCH

Interim Report for the Half Year to 30th June, 1983

	1983 First six months £000's	1982 First six months £000's	Year £000's
Turnover	28,825	28,789	29,806
Earnings before Tax and Interest	857	1,348	2,613
Interest Payable	680	834	1,739
Earnings before Tax	177	414	874
Earnings after all Charges and Taxation	285	210	(309)
Dividends	203	203	650
Earnings per Share	2.29p	1.89p	6.5p

Opencast mining in the U.K. is still profitable, but at a reduced level due principally to the continuing restrictions being placed on output over and above contractual amounts.

In the U.S.A., coal markets are also suffering from the world surplus and Power Inc., the company set up in the U.S.A. five years ago, incurred a loss after interest.

Derek Crouch has now taken complete control of Power Inc. with effect from 18th July by buying out, for a nominal sum, the 40% minority interest held by the two American fuel distribution firms who partnered Derek Crouch in setting up the venture in 1978.

The principal asset of Power Inc. is some 20,000 acres of coal-bearing land in central Pennsylvania with reserves of approximately 20 million tons of coal immediately available for strip mining. A £1.75m. washing plant was commissioned by Power Inc. last year to upgrade the quality of the output and open the way to improved outlets and prices and as a result of the improvement of quality Power Inc. has maintained its share of a highly competitive market.

The Board believes that, although the coal market in the U.S.A., as in other countries, is soft at the moment, the longer term prospects are good. Further investment was required to take advantage of future opportunities and the minority partners were unable to go along this route as a result they agreed to sell their interests in Power Inc. to Derek Crouch. They will, however, continue to act as selling agents for Power Inc. although not on an exclusive basis. The Board believes that the consolidation of Derek Crouch's U.S. interest will bring benefits in the longer term.

On the construction side, the Company is continuing its search for more opportunities in private development areas, reducing total reliance on work in the public sector. Claims and final accounts are still proving extremely difficult to progress and finalise. Claims are only taken into account when agreed. As yet, there are no signs of an upturn in the construction industry.

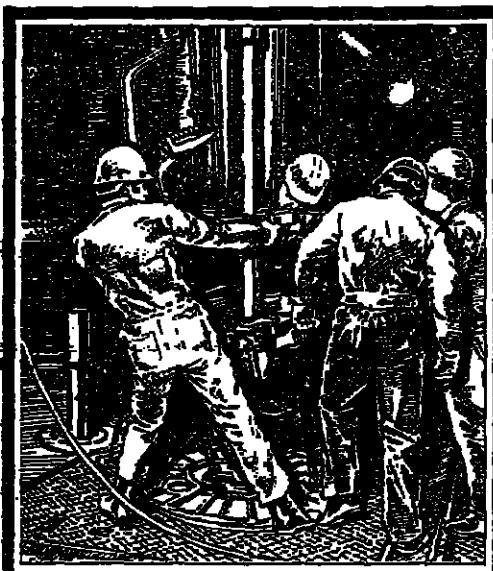
The Directors of Derek Crouch intend to pay a maintained interim dividend of 1.83p which will be payable on 28th October, 1983.

DEREK CROUCH PLC

Head Office: Peterborough PE6 7UW

Telephone:

Peterborough (0733) 222341 Telex: 32129



Drillers at work on the first oil rig operated by Britoil at Platform.

Britoil's first interim results - a successful period

SUMMARY OF INTERIM RESULTS

First Six Months (Unaudited)

	1983 £m	1982 £m
Turnover	121.1	102.2
Operating Profit	8.6	3.0
Profit before Taxation	6.2	(1.8)
Profit after Taxation	4.1	(2.0)
Earnings per Share	3.0p	(1.7)p

HIGHLIGHTS OF FIRST SIX MONTHS

- Group Restructuring well advanced opening the way to a strong turnaround in trading performance
- Group Sales up 19% over first half of 1982
- Successful Rights Issue and placement of new shares in April raised £24.2m. net of expenses
- Balance Sheet strengthened during the half year
- Group has diversified further from former traditional business and is now predominantly engaged in the development and manufacturing of high technology electronic components
- Continuing improvement and strong profit growth forecast for second half
- Restoration of Interim Dividend
- Tax residence of parent company successfully moved to Hong Kong
- Operating Profit increased to 7% of Sales
- Pretax profit improved by £8.0m. over comparable period in 1982
- Astec International continues strong growth with substantial increases in both turnover and profits
- Net Short Term debt reduced from £42.0m. at end of 1982 to £2.8m.
- Half Year Interest Cost reduced from £4.6m. to £2.4m.
- Operating profit interest cover raised from 0.7 to 3.6 times
- Shareholders funds increased from £27.6m. at 31 December 1982 to £55.1m.
- Gearing reduced from 172% to 48%
- Joint venture in California set up to exploit micro wafer media for computer mass storage systems
- Acquisition of electronics royalty agreement completed
- New logo identifies group's continuing diversification into High Technology Electronics
- 0.5p on the Ordinary Shares has been declared (1982 Nil)
- Trustee status maintained
- Dividends from Hong Kong subsidiaries can now be received free of further tax charge

BSR INTERNATIONAL PLC

To obtain copies of the full interim report please write to: The Secretary, BSR International PLC, High Street, Wallaston, Stourbridge, West Midlands DY8 4PG, England

Consolidated Profit and Loss Account (Unaudited)	Six Months ended 30.6.83 \$ million	Pro Forma Year ended 31.12.82 \$ million
Turnover	568.8	1,088.0
Operating profit	287.2	544.9
Net Interest payable	(12.4)	(30.6)
Profit on ordinary activities before taxation	274.8	514.3
Taxation		
Supplementary petroleum duty	-	(162.8)
Petroleum revenue tax	(138.1)	(152.1)
Corporation tax	(83.5)	(96.8)
Profit on ordinary activities after taxation before extraordinary item	53.2	102.6
Extraordinary item (Privatisation expenses)	-	(3.6)
Profit for the financial period	53.2	99.0
Dividends payable	(16.5)	(18.8)
Amount set aside to reserves	36.7	80.2
Earnings per share	10.64p	n/a
Funds generated from operations less tax paid	276.5	577.3
Additions to fixed assets	153.9	316.3

Note: No comparison has been made with the six months ended 30 June 1982 since during that period the business was wholly under the control of The British National Oil Corporation and figures, prepared on a basis comparable with that used for the six months ended 30 June 1983, are not available. Future interim reports will include a comparison with the same period of the previous year.

Review of Activities

Britoil's equity production for the six months to 30 June 1983 remained steady at around 148,000 barrels of oil per day. During the period, the Company re-affirmed its position as the most active explorer on the United Kingdom Continental Shelf. Of the 35 exploration wells drilled in the period, Britoil was involved in 12 of them - 5 as operator and 7 as a venture partner.

Also during the first six months, an application was made to the Government to develop the North Sea's first condensate field, North Brae, in which Britoil has a 20% interest. In addition, the Board agreed to support an application to develop the Victor gas field in which Britoil has a 25% interest.

In the International arena, the Company recently formed, as operator, a bidding group which will apply for Danish acreage later this year. Also, an agreement was concluded which gives Britoil its first venture in the United States and which provides access to a range of on-shore exploration and development acreage. As a result, the Company now has acreage in five overseas countries. In one of these areas, Dubai, development work commenced on the first phase of the Margham condensate field in which Britoil has a one-third interest.

Results

Operating profit for the six months to 30 June 1983 amounted to £287.2 million. The turnover of £568.8 million reflects an average daily oil production of 147,900 barrels (146,800 in 1982) whilst the deterioration in the dollar/sterling exchange rate, which more than compensated for the fall in the dollar oil price early in 1983, raised the average sterling realisation per barrel to £19.83 (£19.13 in 1982).

Dividends

As indicated at the time of the Offer for Sale, the Directors intend to pay an interim dividend of 3.3p per share. Payment will be made on 14 October 1983 to shareholders on the register at the close of business on 15 September 1983.

For a copy of the full interim report please complete and return the coupon to the Company Secretary, Britoil plc, 150 St Vincent Street, Glasgow G2 5JJ. Existing shareholders will receive the report shortly.

Name: _____
Address: _____

Britoil
Enterprise in Energy

Cricket: England rescued from early troubles after Tavaré goes in second over and Gower is hit on the head

England's hopes are high as Botham and Randall come bouncing back

By John Woodcock
Cricket Correspondent

TRENT BRIDGE: England have scored 362 for seven against New Zealand.

England were extricated from their customary troubles by Botham and Randall when the fourth Cornhill Test started yesterday. Coming together at 169 for 5, they added 186 with a really splendid piece of batting. The effect on the balance of the match was devastating. At a quarter past three New Zealand must have been fancying their chances of winning if by close of play they were on the way to losing.

Randall's 83 gave enormous local pleasure, universal pleasure in fact. What a wonderfully resilient creature he is. He always comes bouncing back, laying his game and harbouring no grudges. Having dropped him from the Lord's Test, the selectors must have watched him yesterday, playing as well as I have ever seen him, with pleasure mixed with some embarrassment. He knows now that he will be needing his tropical kit again next winter.

Yet the best news of the day was Botham's return to his form of a couple of years ago. As at Lord's last week, when he took Somerset to the final of the NatWest Trophy, he played with massive authority. There were three of those backhand sweeps I don't care for; but even they all went for four, once off a full toss from Bracewell, being flicked away like an angled backhand volley. Botham had batted 22 times for England since making his last 100 for them. Now the prodigal score has returned. There can be much rejoicing at that.

For half its course, the day bore a close resemblance to the opening day of the third Test at Lord's. Then, too, England batted first, and it was Gower again who gave the innings what early confidence it had. Not only that. Whereas at Lord's he was badly missed

when 21, yesterday Lees put him down at the wicket, a straightforward catch, when he was 15. The outfield, artificially green, kept the shine on the ball until Botham and Randall removed it; the pitch, almost unnaturally brown and damp to start with, allowed it to turn a little.

In the end the difference from Lord's was that Randall and not Taylor came in at No.7. This was because England had left out Thomas, a disappointment not so much because it reduced their bowling depth but because Thomas will not be one of the bowlers. The case for preferring Thomas to Cowans seems scarcely to have arisen in the selectors' minds, though. There would have been the more interesting choice.

Tavaré was out to the last ball of the second over, superbly caught at third slip by Cairns, one-handed and diving to his left. England, against the ropes, were kept there when a few balls later Gower ducked into a bouncer from Hadlee. He took his eye off the ball and so broke the golden rule. Peter May said he thought the best player of the bouncer he had ever seen was Reg Simpson, who was a swayer, not a ducker. Gower, bare-headed when he was hit, spurned with fine disdain the

helmet subsequently offered him. His hair coated with blood, he proceeded to steer England through an awkward morning. At Lord's, Tavaré helped him do so: yesterday it was Smith.

New Zealand were unlucky. Hadlee beating Gower several times. There was also that one costly chance. Had it been taken, England would have been 44 for two, with the ball still hard and fairly new. Instead, by lunch New Zealand had a morning of frustration to look back on. England were 88 for one and Crowe had had a finger dislocated when fielding foolishly close at short-leg to Bracewell. A quick jerk and it was soon put back, but he did not field again.

For the first 90 minutes of the afternoon things looked up for New Zealand. At 94, Smith, propping forward at Bracewell's off-spin, was caught at silly mid-off bat and pad. At 136, Gower, when playing beautifully, was yanked by Cairns. At 156, Lamb was out just as Smith had been. Had Bracewell not bowled one short ball an over, England hereabouts might have got wholly bogged down. With Cairns as Bracewell's partner New Zealand found their most effective combination of the day.

Gatting was the next to go. For 45 minutes he kept his patience. Then, in the same over from Bracewell, he hit a six into the Cyril Lowther Pavilion at long-on (the ball shinned up a drainpipe and through a top-floor window) and was leg before trying to sweep. This was not only a poor stroke, it was a stupid one, especially for such a good straight-hitter. Gatting had the rest of the day to rue it while he watched Botham and Randall enjoy the feast that could have been his.

Botham's 100, his twelfth for England, came in 99 balls, his second 50 in only 26 balls. He hit three sixes and 14 fours. One



Tied up in Notts: Randall tries unsuccessfully to pull his county colleague Hadlee. (Photograph: Ian Stewart)

of his sixes, a sweep, landed almost in the lap of his joyful wife. Having played himself in the hot sun, in the end, like Randall, he was carried away by the fun of it all. Having reached his 100 he took a huge swing at Snedden and was leg before.

Randall had hit 11 fours and batted for 146 minutes when he was out. He was caught by Cairns, who was standing at short-leg. Cairns, who was standing at short-leg, was standing at short-leg.

Essex gallop away with the bit between their teeth

By Peter Ball

Colchester: Essex (24pts) beat Worcestershire (13) by an innings and 58 runs.

For the second time this week, not even a more spirited showing by their opponents at the second time of asking could prevent Essex from winning in two days. They claimed maximum points to extend their lead in the championship: it was the sixth time this season they have won by an innings.

With the bit now between their teeth, Essex will take some stopping on the run. Worcestershire's brittle and increasingly injury-ravaged side never looked like doing so, although an audacious 95 by their active captain Patel, and some positive defiance by Humphries and Ingham delayed the inevitable until after tea and enabled their side to regain some self-respect. They could, however, hope to do no more against such superior local opposition to the morning, just as on Monday against Gloucestershire, Fletcher had batted on for 100 minutes as his batsmen added 149 to give them virtually unassailable lead of 329. Once again the pace was set by McEwan, whose eight centuries this season have made an important contribution.

On this occasion he batted for 288 minutes to finish with an unbeaten 189, his highest score of the season to do so for Essex since Doug Insole in 1955.

Any hopes that Worcestershire would make a match of it were dispelled immediately after lunch when they limply lost four wickets for four runs in five overs. Three fell to Leaver in the first eight balls, and with the score at 38 for four demoralisation seemed to be setting in.

Almost unnoticed amidst the wreckage was Patel, who was now joined by the cartilage victim, Scott, accompanied by a runner. Together they produced one of the most remarkable stands of the season. Patel had clearly decided that an hour of glorious life was worth an age without a name, and Curtis, the runner, became a virtual irrelevant, as bat flashing like a rapier, he put Leaver to the sword.

sleeping partner to the rejuvenated Philip and five runs short of a richly-deserved century he followed, the afternoon to lose his off-stump. That ended Worcestershire's only serious hope of making Essex but again, but Ingham and Humphries who owed his side some runs after calamitously dropping McEwan on Wednesday, batted well enough to make Essex work for their success. If only some of their predecessors had shown similar resolution.

WORCESTERSHIRE: First Innings: 84 (M. Patel 95)

Worcestershire	Runs
M. Patel	95
M. J. Leaver	1
M. J. Leaver	1
M. J. Leaver	1
M. J. Leaver	1
M. J. Leaver	1
M. J. Leaver	1
M. J. Leaver	1
M. J. Leaver	1
M. J. Leaver	1

Total (10 wickets, 85.5 overs): 413

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-34, 2-34, 3-38, 4-38

5-146, 6-153, 7-216, 8-258, 9-258, 10-258

BOWLING: Essex, 15.2-40-58; Leaver, 15.2-40-58

Turner, 15.2-40-58; Patel, 15.2-40-58

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Britain wins two golds in style

From Athol Stoll, Rome

After three days of frustration and disappointment in the European championships in Rome, British competitors finally found their best form yesterday, as first Carolyn Moorhouse and then Carolyn Wilson won gold medals - in the 200 metres breaststroke and the solo synchronized swimming event respectively.

The Yorkshireman, aged 19, who swam a superbly fast and powerful start, was undoubtedly lost in the 100 metres event on Monday, but both failures to rights in the longer event.

He set off in a much more controlled, almost leisurely fashion yesterday. At halfway he was only in fourth place (1min 07.54sec), more than a second behind the favourite, Robertas Zilpa, of the Soviet Union, who is a 200 metres specialist and the Olympic European champion to boot. At 150 metres, Moorhouse was still fourth. But immediately after the turn he unleashed a spurt of such fluency and acceleration that fully 10 metres from the wall, it was already obvious that the gold medal was his.

"For the first time in my life I paced it right," he said. "I was the most relaxed in the 100 metres, but the start and had no thoughts of time targets. I had been practising pacing like this with my coach, Terry Benison, and it just came good at the right time."

I feel great at having averaged my best time in the 100 metres, but I must say that two Russians are great competitors.

Moorhouse's time improved his own English record by .55 of a second and is the third fastest time in world this year behind Zilpa and Steve Lundquist of the United States, who significantly could only manage 2 min 19.31 sec in narrowly winning the Pan-American title a few days ago. Yesterday's performance provides further evidence of Moorhouse's gold medal potential at the Olympics next year.

At 200 metres Moorhouse, 1. A Moorhouse (GB) 2 min 19.31 sec, 2. A Moorhouse (GB) 2 min 19.31 sec, 3. A Moorhouse (GB) 2 min 19.31 sec, 4. A Moorhouse (GB) 2 min 19.31 sec, 5. A Moorhouse (GB) 2 min 19.31 sec, 6. A Moorhouse (GB) 2 min 19.31 sec, 7. A Moorhouse (GB) 2 min 19.31 sec, 8. A Moorhouse (GB) 2 min 19.31 sec, 9. A Moorhouse (GB) 2 min 19.31 sec, 10. A Moorhouse (GB) 2 min 19.31 sec, 11. A Moorhouse (GB) 2 min 19.31 sec, 12. A Moorhouse (GB) 2 min 19.31 sec, 13. A Moorhouse (GB) 2 min 19.31 sec, 14. A Moorhouse (GB) 2 min 19.31 sec, 15. A Moorhouse (GB) 2 min 19.31 sec, 16. A Moorhouse (GB) 2 min 19.31 sec, 17. A Moorhouse (GB) 2 min 19.31 sec, 18. A Moorhouse (GB) 2 min 19.31 sec, 19. A Moorhouse (GB) 2 min 19.31 sec, 20. A Moorhouse (GB) 2 min 19.31 sec, 21. A Moorhouse (GB) 2 min 19.31 sec, 22. A Moorhouse (GB) 2 min 19.31 sec, 23. A Moorhouse (GB) 2 min 19.31 sec, 24. A Moorhouse (GB) 2 min 19.31 sec, 25. A Moorhouse (GB) 2 min 19.31 sec, 26. 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Mourie likely to lead New Zealanders, despite denial

Most of the victorious All Blacks will defect to professional circus

From Ray Cairns, Christchurch

The David Lord's professional Rugby Union seems set for its January debut in Glasgow and Wembley with virtually the entire New Zealand All Blacks team which recently crushed the British Lions.

Unimpeachable sources reveal that of the 17 players who took the field for the All Blacks in their last five international matches and the five other reserves, a minimum of 15 will come under the wing of Lord, the Sydney journalist.

Nor does the list, which Graham Mourie, despite his denials, will probably be captain-coach, and he is already tagged a professional for his recent successful autobiography.

And recent All Blacks who have finished with international play, will also be part of the process, including Barnes, Robertson, Mark Donaldson, Bill Osbourne and Frank Oliver. The list also seems likely to include Nicky Allen and Gary Cunningham, two recent All Blacks, and Doug Rolleston and Kent Lambert, who committed the sin unforgivable to Rugby's hierarchy here, by turning to Rugby League.

The Australian team is also taking shape. Informal sources reveal that it could be that only the veteran prop, Stan Pilecki and the banker, Simon Feilcke, will not take their place in the Australian professional line-up - though David Campese, the newest star, is strangely also a possible absentee - and the likes of Mark Lonsdale will lead the recent past into the money game.



Mourie: successful author

The rewards are considerable, and underlie just why the leading players are willing to risk financial catastrophe, though the mood of the grass roots Rugby fanatics here is rapidly becoming one of ready acceptance of the inevitability of the game.

Three knock-out tournaments are to be held each year, and each is to be worth £16,000 - to each player. With houses, the New All Blacks have been told by the "accountant" in their ranks, also David Lord's New Zealand "representative", that they can expect something in the region of £130,000 over the first two years of the planned three-year cycle. Close to half a million pounds will be at stake in each tournament. The countries involved are the Four Home Unions, Australia, and New Zealand, who will be the possibility as an eighth country necessary for a knock-out series.

Argentina was to have been

the eighth country, and a worthy one, too, after their drawn series with the Wallabies, but Lord seems to accept any politically difficult situation, hence the exclusion for at least the first two years of South Africa.

He can avoid any possible confrontation with Rugby officials and has choice of grounds, as well as Wembley and Glasgow, he is looking to the Liverpool and Leicester football grounds.

New Zealand poses a few more problems with all the large arenas controlled by rugby authorities. But Mount Smart Stadium, a soccer and athletics venue, is the most certain choice in Auckland; Athletic Park, Wellington, could still be used, as it is owned by the Maori Lands Board; and the Christchurch possibility is Queen Elizabeth II Park, the main 1974 Commonwealth Games venue.

One interesting prospect at the Sydney Cricket Ground is what is being termed a Quadrangle, whereby, all eight teams will be on show in consecutive matches, starting at 1 p.m., then, at two-hourly intervals with the final game starting at 7 p.m.

Wellington (AFP) - Three key players from the All Black forward pack are unavailable for the New Zealand Rugby team's tour of England and Scotland, which begins on October 1. Captain Dalziel, his front row partner Gary Knight and lock Graeme Hoggins are all farmers and cannot spare the time away from their properties at this time of year.

There are reports that up to nine current All Blacks may not be available for the tour because of business and family reasons.

The auld enemy, with new friend

Scotland are planning a money-spinning soccer spectacle with England aimed at replacing the home international, which are to be discontinued. The Scottish FA's scheme to stage a new tournament involving England and one of the world's leading nations, as well as Brazil or West Germany.

Ernie Walker, secretary of the Scottish FA, has put forward his idea to his counterparts in England and he admitted today that the initial reaction from the FA has been "very promising".

Discussions between the two bodies are only at an informal stage according to Walker, but he hopes that the matter will be pursued in greater depth shortly.

Walker explained: "I have suggested this plan as I feel the fans were fed up with games against Northern Ireland and Wales. They need something new and exciting."

A tournament at the end of a season has to offer something fresh or it does not get the go-ahead. It is why our executive came to the decision that the British championship could not survive.

Walker's branch is to invite a number of clubs to play in England and Scotland at Wembley and Hampden Park, with the annual clash between the "Auld enemy" rounding off the series.

Walker added: "I am sure this would be a great success for the players. Television would be interested and so would sponsors. We have not reached the stage of sounding out the opposition yet, but it would be countries of stature."

County get their man for £40,000

The Football League secretary, Graham Kelly, helped settle a dispute between two of his "bosses" today when Nott County agreed to pay Norwich City £40,000 for Martin O'Neill.

The County chairman, David Smith, and the League President, and the City chairman, Sir Arthur South, a member of the League Management Committee, both appeared before a transfer tribunal in London, and Kelly was on the bench.

Smith said the County had offered £15,000, and Norwich had asked for £100,000. The clubs reached a compromise without a tribunal.

Chatham Athletic sold the forward Steve White, to Bristol Rovers today for £45,000. White, aged 24, began his career with Rovers before joining Luton Town.

Imre Varadi, the Newcastle United forward, joined another second division club, Sheffield Wednesday, for £130,000 plus the forward David Mills.

Newcastle hope to spend the money on a centre forward to play alongside the captain, Kevin Richardson.

Cryshal Palace signed the Birmingham City forward, Tony Evans, on a year's contract today. Evans, aged 27, was on Birmingham's free transfer list.

Chris White, the younger brother of the Aston Villa and England centre forward, Peter, plays for Bradford City for the first time at Orient, on Saturday.

Swansea's forward, Kevin Richardson, who has a two match suspension.

Swansea lose edge

By Nicholas Harling

Whatever demon it was that possessed Chris Marlowit to about turn and sweep a rash 40-yard pass back to Jimmy Rimmer on Wednesday, it has certainly ended Swansea City's interest in the European Cup Winners' Cup.

With that calamitous mistake in the first leg of the preliminary round tie at Vetch Field, Swansea's chances of reaching the final have been handed an enormous advantage to the East Germans of FC Magdeburg who must have been delighted with Joachim Schuster's last-minute goal.

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RACING: FILLIES FIRST CHANCE TO SHOW THEIR CLASS

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Latest row keeps alive America's Cup's capacity to shock

American 'hot air' looks like blowing keel controversy into the law courts

From David Miller, Newport, Rhode Island

One of the most sustained campaigns of attempted rule manipulation - or as some would call it, cheating - in the history of sport is now likely to end up in the law courts. It has for months been predicted that the 1983 America's Cup will be decided by lawyers on land rather than by sailors on the water - and so it looks like turning out.

Not since the body-line series of the 1930s, when Douglas Jardine used Harold Larwood to intimidate Don Bradman, have the British been involved in a competition of such overt hostility, though now they are aligned with the Australians against the devious shore-based, shifting tactics of the New York Yacht Club, whose behaviour has been roundly condemned by the *Boston Globe* and *New York Times*. Yet with millions of dollars at stake in seeking to retain the trophy in home Newport Waters, the NYCC seemingly cannot be calmed, even by its own countrymen, into suspending their committee-room hostilities.

The truth of the matter, not hitherto properly clarified in the controversy, is that the NYCC and the US Yacht Racing Union are totally out of order - within the Conditions of Racing, which they themselves drew up by mutual agreement with the seven challenging foreign syndicates - in their attempt unilaterally to have Australia II and the recently modified Victory '83 declared illegal under 12-metre rating regulations.

Frank Kemball, chairman of the challenge committee of the Royal Burnham YC, through which Victory '83 is entered, was one of those who helped draft the Conditions for both the challengers' elimination series and the America's Cup proper. Arriving here yesterday, Kemball was quite emphatic that NYCC protests are so much hot air, and completely invalid. Furthermore, Kemball adds: "If Australia II were to win the elimination final next week and subsequently declared illegal, Victory '83 would only step in as reserve contender against the defending American boat over my dead body."

"Under Condition 20 in the elimin-

ation series and Condition 22 of the match-proper, the rules are absolutely clear on four points. Firstly, the measurer is bound by the rule interpretation originally applied by the measurement committee in any remeasurement because of an alleged change. Secondly, in the event of a remeasurement, if the measurer is unable to reconcile the change, he must refer the matter back to the committee.

"Thirdly, the findings of the measuring committee are final. Lastly, in the event of conflict between these and other conditions, such as International Yacht Racing Union Rules, these conditions shall be operative. All this was mutually negotiated with the NYCC."

Four days ago the NYCC, having been exposed in their attempt to purchase the Australia II design from the Dutch yard where it was tank-tested, then attempted to discredit Victory '83. When Peter de Savary's yacht fitted wings to its keel, easily detachable, unlike those of Australia II, Mark Vinbury, the NYCC-nominated member of the measurement committee, was invited to inspect the modification. He verbally approved it, but within two hours broke confidence by suggesting to the USYRU that the modification was illegal. The USYRU immediately formally protested to Victory '83.

In a strong worded reply, Bill Ritchie, president of Royal Burnham, said that the USYRU has no standing or authority in the matter; that Royal Burnham, not Victory '83, is the British challenging authority; that Victory '83 has strictly complied with the rating rules; that both defenders and challengers had agreed on the Conditions, in which the measurement committee's decision is final; and that the matter is therefore closed.

Part of the complication, and the supposed loophole seen by the NYCC, arises out of the existence of the two sets of Conditions, one for the elimination series and one for the match-proper. But they vary only in relation to the number of boats, never on matters of principle. Because the NYCC accepted the original measure-

ment of all defenders and challengers, it conveys the implicit acceptance that the same for both elimination series and match-proper, namely: Vinbury (representing the NYCC), John Savage (representing Royal Sydney YS) and the mutually agreed IYRU representative, the widely-respected Tony Watts.

The behaviour of the NYCC has been quixotic since the Victory challenge was made three years ago. When de Savary purchased, as pace-maker, Australia I, the unsuccessful Alan Bond challenger of 1980, Ed Davis, designer of the first and later abandoned Victory, consulted Johan Valentijn, Australia I's designer. The NYCC immediately protested that Valentijn was a foreigner. Royal Burnham politely apologised and submitted affidavits which the NYCC accepted. Six weeks later Valentijn was given US citizenship and started designing the new Liberty, currently the favourite to defend the Cup next month.

Liberty's helmsman is Denis Conner, successful defender with Freedom in 1980. "He's gone mad," says de Savary, and even Conner's United States rivals on Courageous and Defender concede he is allowing anxiety to push him to extremes of technical sensitivity.

Conner's voice has been regularly picked up on short-wave radio on the water during the United States trials, with comments, addressed to the NYCC committee boat, like: "In the interests of defending the Cup, we request permission to change our mainsail." The word among other crews along the waterfront here is that the Liberty syndicate "has 100 per cent sure they will not have to race Australia II in the match-proper, and even if it wins the elimination series it will be declared illegal." But how, and by whom?

Strictly speaking, the NYCC cannot directly protest about Australia II until it has qualified as the challenger and enters a contractual situation with the Americans. That is why, up to now, the NYCC has tried to provoke the other challenging syndicates to make the

protest, while they were in competition. But all have declined, especially de Savary, resolutely supporting Australia II. Only the Italians have made a surreptitious, dog-leg move to exploit the situation to their advantage.

Bob McCullough, NYCC commodore, has demanded that the keel controversy be referred to the IYRU, whose executive committee meets on August 30. Azzurra, backed by the Aga Khan and third in the elimination semi-finals, therefore proposed that the elimination final be postponed from August 28 to await the IYRU decision. (A double disqualification would let the Italians slip in as challengers! But their suggestion has been discreetly side-stepped.)

It is expected that the IYRU will refer the matter to their keel-boat committee, and that a decision will be made in November, too late to affect the present series.

On the academic level, there is some room for argument. Olin Stephens, doyen of American designers, inquired about fins some years ago and was turned down within the rules. But 12-metre class is what is termed a development class, in which changes are encouraged, and Stephens has come out in open support of the Ben Lexcen design. So has David Pedrick, designer of Defender. He has told the NYCC they "have a weak case." But Liberty's navigator, Halsey Herreshoff, is of the opinion that "what we have here is a bunch of apples and one orange."

The NYCC objection to Australia II's fins is that they increase the draught of the yacht when heeled. Yet the rules state that measurements are taken in still water, presumably when the keel is vertical. Apart from that, a heeling yacht does not rotate about a fixed point, because buoyancy, and therefore the water-line, alters with the heel.

Over two years ago, after a meeting to discuss the conditions, McCullough said to Kemball on departure: "Let's keep it fun, Frank." Kemball is beginning to wonder just what the American meant.

Race to win the rule book war proves an absorbing contest

By Barry Pickthall

Espionage, rule-bending, misinformation, bluff and counter-bluff, employed this year by the challenging and defending syndicates, has shocked the most cynical of observers on both sides of the Atlantic.

Such has been the extent of mud-slinging that the moves and counter-moves employed by either corner now overshadow what was once the most important aspect - the match racing itself.

"Americans are the friendliest, most helpful people - until they feel threatened. Then they will do anything necessary to retain the trophy," says John Oakley, veteran skipper of Lionheart, the British challenger in 1980.

But this year, more than any other, the Americans feel threatened. The object of their contest is Australia II, whose radical design, by Ben Lexcen, has helped the yacht out-perform her six rivals in 44 of her 49 races in the preliminary series to select a challenger.

After failing to secure the technology from the Dutch tank-testing laboratory where the design of Australia's unusual winged keel was perfected, it might seem that the New York Yacht Club has been given the task of getting the yacht disqualified.

First, they presented the other challenging syndicates with evidence to show that the Lexcen design measured not as a 12-metre but as a 12.4-metre in the hope that one of the would-be challengers would protest. This is a similar ploy to that carried out against Lionheart's bumpy rig three years ago.

When that failed, an attempt was made first to discredit the Australian and British members of the Rhode Island Sound, a challenger, and then to have them disqualified. The committee, after they re-affirmed that the measurement certificate of Australia was indeed valid. They pressurized the 14 individual members of the IYRU keelboat technical committee to rule out the design.

When these moves also began to look as if they may fail - the IYRU deliberates on the matter in London on August 30 - the NYCC turned its attention to the Netherlands Ship Model Basin, where Lexcen developed the design for both Australia II and Challenge 12, the Melbourne 12-metre knocked out with France 3 and Advance in the early rounds.

A confession was sought about the extent of Dutch collaboration in the design of the yacht, with the aim of having Australia II disqualified on the grounds of being a wholly Australian design.

For the Americans, the Cup defence has become a point of national pride. While British and Australian syndicates which meet twice a week, the final eliminatorials to decide a challenger, are campaigning to win a 100-guinea cup, the Americans are racing for country, continued self-respect and a tourist industry said to be worth \$140m to Newport this summer.

Before this series, the America's Cup has always been a one-sided affair. Not only do the Americans have the advantage of racing in their own waters, but have always administered the rules, ensuring that they remain weighted in their favour.

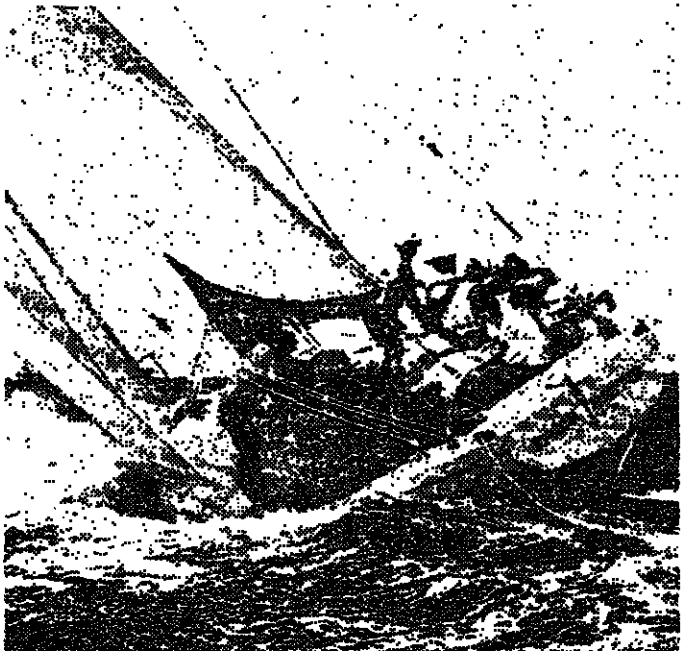
In the days of those majestic 'J' Class yachts, as anachronistic now as the huge mansions that edge Rhode Island Sound, a challenger and defender were all British - had to sail to Newport to prove the yacht's sea worthiness, which had the effect of ensuring that the challengers, built strong enough to cross a storm-ridden Atlantic, were then too heavy to compete against lighter-constructed defenders, designed and built with little more than Rhode Island Sound in mind.

Other rules have always insisted that foreign challengers must not only be designed and built in the challenging nation but be totally equipped with home grown products, which has had the effect of denying foreigners the technical advances gained in America, particularly in the field of sailcloth and shape.

Even if a challenger had a yacht to match the Americans, they still had to overcome possibly the biggest hurdle of all - first an all-American protest committee and then the New York Yacht Club's Cup Committee, whose rulings on all matters were final.

There would have been no doubts over Australia's keel. Before this series it would have been ruled illegal.

Lord Dunraven made the mistake of protesting Defender during his second attempt to win the Cup for Britain in 1895, after one of his crew reported that he had seen the American yacht lying in the water well below her marks on the eve of the first race. The following day, Lord Dunraven protested that the American boat had been seen taking in water ballast to improve her heeling



Dame Pattie: provoked controversy in 1967

moment, but he not only lost the protest, but was later blackballed from the New York YC for his pains.

The Club Committee went through the motions of re-measuring the two yachts, but by then the ballast tanks in Defender had presumably been emptied for the yacht measured within a fraction of her original freeboard figure.

Other controversial protest decisions from the host nation over the years, particularly in the case of Australian challengers, were the 1970 Australia II challenge, when the New York YC refused to relinquish chairmanship of the protest jury to the International Yacht Racing Union in 1974.

Challengers no longer have to sail to Newport on their bottoms, and for this series the rules have been opened up even further after pressure was brought to bear by the challenging syndicates and Peter de Savary in particular, which set up a 12-metre International Class Association to take over much of the rule-making from the New York YC, in an effort to even the odds.

Challenging syndicates can now use sails made in America and also purchase spars and hardware from the host nation, provided it is all bought off the shelf.

Only the yachts must be designed and built in their home countries. The Americans are planning their hopes that this will rule out Australia II and keep the Cup safely bolted to its plinth for another four years.

McEnroe top seed in Open again

New York (Reuters) - John McEnroe and Martina Navratilova will be the top seeds in the singles championships at the United States Open next week, it was announced here.

Jimmy Connors, the men's defending champion, has been seeded third and last year's runner-up, Ivan Lendl, second. The championships begin on August 30 at the national tennis centre.

McEnroe is No 1 seed for the third successive year. He won the title in 1979, 1980 and 1981, but lost to Lendl in the semi-finals last year. Martina Navratilova is the top seed for the second successive year. Last year she was beaten by Pam Shriver in the quarter-finals. Chris Lloyd is the defending champion.

New points system should help Enfield

By Paul Newman

The Alliance Premier League are operating a unique points system which they hope will lead to more entertaining football. Away wins are now being rewarded with three points instead of two, and draws with one instead of two.

For the last two years, in common with the Football League, the Alliance have awarded three points for a home win, two for a draw and one for an away win. More goals were scored under the system, but it was felt last season, despite the fact that the total of 1,440 goals was an increase of 171 on the previous year, that away teams were often playing for draws.

It is hoped the new system will encourage away teams to play more positively. It looks certain to help Enfield, who are widely recognized as the most entertaining team in the Alliance and began their defence of

the league title last week with a 3-0 win away to Telford United, the FA Trophy holders.

Under another innovation this season, Alliance teams are being allowed to use two substitutes instead of one.

AP Leamington have failed in their attempt to buy their ground from the company which owns it and may fold up at the end of this season. The club's six-figure bid was said to be more than the ground was worth as a stadium but less than others from developers, one of which has been accepted "with regret" by Automotive Products.

After winning the Southern Premier League, Leamington were not good enough for them to be promoted to the Alliance Premier League. Then AP decided to sell after making a

£14m trading loss last year.

The club chairman, John Soldan, has not given up hope, however. "I shall fight until I know there is nothing left to fight for," he said. Planning permission will be needed if the ground is to be built on and Mr Soldan wants fund-raising to continue so the club can bid again for the local council turns down an application to develop.

Weymouth are having to rebuild their side after the departure of seven of the squad who took the Alliance club into the third round of the FA cup last season. Trevor Finnigan has gone to Yeovil Town as player-manager and taken with him Baker, Elliott and Borthwick (Poole Town), and Johnson have also left. Their replacements include Smeulders (from Trowbridge

Town), Platt (Yeovil), Sandercock (Barnet) and Crabbe (Bridport).

Yeovil Town, who a year ago were losing more than £1,000 a week, have reported a deficit of £4,600 last season compared with £5,664 over the previous 12 months.

Two new names, in addition to nine arrivals from different leagues, appear in the Southern League this season. Dover Athletic have been formed out of the old Dover club, who were liquidated with debts of more than £25,000 at the end of last season, and Enbury Town have changed their name to Leicester United.

Vic Hixon, a member of Sunderland's 1973 FA Cup winning side, has succeeded Mick Taylor as manager of Barrow.

MEANS SEEDINGS (US unless stated): J. McEnroe 1, L. Lendl 2, J. Connors 3, M. Navratilova 4, I. Lendl 5, A. Panatta 6, A. Borg 7, K. Okamoto 8, J. H. K. 9, J. H. K. 10, J. H. K. 11, J. H. K. 12, J. H. K. 13, J. H. K. 14, J. H. K. 15, J. H. K. 16, J. H. K. 17, J. H. K. 18, J. H. K. 19, J. H. K. 20, J. H. K. 21, J. H. K. 22, J. H. K. 23, J. H. K. 24, J. H. K. 25, J. H. K. 26, J. H. K. 27, J. H. K. 28, J. H. K. 29, J. H. K. 30, J. H. K. 31, J. H. K. 32, J. H. K. 33, J. H. K. 34, J. H. K. 35, J. H. K. 36, J. H. K. 37, J. H. K. 38, J. H. K. 39, J. H. K. 40, J. H. K. 41, J. H. K. 42, J. H. K. 43, J. H. K. 44, J. H. K. 45, J. H. K. 46, J. H. K. 47, J. H. K. 48, J. H. K. 49, J. H. K. 50, J. H. K. 51, J. H. K. 52, J. H. K. 53, J. H. K. 54, J. H. K. 55, J. H. K. 56, J. H. K. 57, J. H. K. 58, J. H. K. 59, J. H. K. 60, J. H. K. 61, J. H. K. 62, J. H. K. 63, J. H. K. 64, J. H. K. 65, J. H. K. 66, J. H. K. 67, J. H. K. 68, J. H. K. 69, J. H. K. 70, J. H. K. 71, J. H. K. 72, J. H. K. 73, J. H. 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Car Buyer's Guide

Motoring by Peter Waymark

A rare estate from Germany



A touch of class - the Volkswagen Passat Estate

German motorists tend to be less keen on estate cars than we are and that helps to explain why, in the entire Volkswagen and Audi range, there is only one estate car. Characteristically, it is a thorough job, carefully engineered, solidly built and well finished.

It is also a sensible size, long enough to give ample space for passengers and luggage (helped by front-wheel drive) and yet not too big to manoeuvre in traffic or take round narrow country lanes. Competing with models like the Ford Sierra, Renault 18 and Peugeot 305, it may not be the cheapest in its class but it is one of the best.

The Passat is available in three versions, according to engine as a 1.6 litre diesel, 1.8 litre petrol (the CL which is the subject of this test) and 1.9 litre petrol with five cylinders. The choice, essentially, is between fuel consumption and performance, the cars becoming quicker, but less economical, as engine sizes increase.

I have covered more than 1,200 miles in the CL in just over a week, most of the time with three other members of the family and a full boot, and the 1.8 unit seems an admirable compromise. The car lacks only two significant features of the more expensive model, a split (one-third/two-thirds) rear seat, and a built-in roof rack.

The first requirement of an estate is that it should be an adequate load carrier. The Passat is a most roomy car, which makes excellent use of its interior space so that even the tallest passengers should not feel cramped in the back seat, and it will take up to five people in comfort.

The flat load platform, slightly compromised by the intrusion of the wheel arches, is 4ft 8in wide, and it can be extended to a length of 5ft 7in if the rear seat is folded down. Even with the back seat in use, the luggage area should be big enough for most needs. The tailgate extends to the floor and a light shines if it is not properly shut.

The engine invariably started first time on the automatic choke (always a reassuring sign) and proved willing and lively, with impressive flexibility for its size. Even with a well laden car, there was enough power available to accelerate without continuous gear changes.

It is also smooth and quiet unit, even though it works hard in top (3,200rpm at 70mph) and would benefit from the fifth gear which is available on the 1.9 litre model. Fuel consumption is impressive. My average, over town centres to motorways, was 36mpg. An aid to economy is a light on the fascia which comes on when its

time to change to a higher gear; and there is a consumption gauge, said to be accurate to 5 per cent.

The Passat is a pleasure to drive in every respect. The gearchange is crisp and accurate, the steering light and responsive, with good turning circle, and the brakes powerfully effective. Helped by the anti-roll bar (specially added for the estate), the car enjoys almost flat cornering and sure road holding, while good aerodynamics help stability and cut down wind noise.

At the wheel, the driver is favoured with height adjustment for his seat as well as the usual rake and reach, clear instruments and well placed controls. Visibility is helped by having outside mirrors on both sides of the car, as well as a standard tailgate wash/wipe and a large window area.

I have three criticisms. The most important is that the ventilation system is simply not up to the job in hot weather. This may have been an exceptional summer but even along the motorway we found ourselves having to travel with the windows open, which makes the car noisier and less stable.

The second point is that the ride is on the firm side and while this may be partly a matter of taste, back seat passengers did complain of being shaken up on rough surfaces (where there can also be considerable tyre rumble). Finally, it is irritating not to have a louder tick when the trafficators are in operation. Many were the times I forgot to cancel them.

Vital Statistics

Model: Volkswagen Passat CL Estate. Price: £8,998. Engine: 1,781 cc four cylinder. Performance: 0-60 mph 11.6 sec; top speed 105 mph. Official fuel consumption: urban 33.2 mpg, 56 mph 42.2 mpg; 75 mph 33.2 mpg. Length: 14 ft 10.7 in. Insurance: Group 5.

Getting the hump

After extensive trials, road humps - or "sleeping policemen" - became legal on the public highway of Britain yesterday. Controversy has already been joined - will the humps prove to be a useful aid to road safety or an unwelcome hazard for drivers and motorists?

The idea behind humps, which local authorities may now set up on roads subject to a 30 mph speed limit, is to slow traffic and thus reduce accidents.

Humps have been in operation on private estates for some years but not hitherto on public roads. The Department of Transport decided to legalize them after a series of experiments conducted by the Transport and Road Research Laboratory suggested that they could make a valuable contribution to reducing road casualties.

Eight areas were selected for the experiments, each running for a year. Several sorts of roads were used, from a seaside esplanade to a bus route through a residential estate and a shopping parade which normally attracts a large number of heavy vehicles.



Humps for 1/2 mile

In all cases the humps did what they intended. On average the number of accidents was cut by half.

Why, then, do the motoring organizations remain sceptical? The strongest argument against humps has come from the Royal Automobile Club, which sees them not so much a safety measure as a potential danger. Drivers or motorcyclists hitting them at speed in the dark or the wet could be thrown off line and actually cause accidents.

The RAC reckons that the money could be put to better use, for even if drivers are slowed by the humps they will only go faster on other roads to make up lost time. The Automobile Association takes a less critical view overall but feels that drivers may deliberately alter their route to avoid humps, increasing congestion on surrounding roads.

A lot will depend on how effectively the humps are sign-posted so that drivers are already slowing down by the time they come to them. The Department of Transport is confident that a mixture of advance warning signs - a symbol within a red triangle with "humps for 1/2 mile" underneath - will meet the case, and there will also be markings in the humps themselves.

The regulations require that humps must be of a certain size and shape (12in in length and not more than 4in high) and can be installed only on stretches of well lit road.

Early warning

Somewhere in the middle of a long haul from Boulogne to Brittany recently I found that oncoming drivers were flashing their lights at me. It happened too often to ignore and eventually I pulled in to check the car. I had not left my headlights on, nor a door partly open and nor, thankfully, water gushing from my radiator.

I shrugged my shoulders, got back in the car and drove on. There was yet more flashing and then, on rounding a bend, I discovered the answer - a police speed trap.

Had I only known what my fellow drivers had been trying to do, I would have been grateful instead of apprehensive. Getting caught for speeding on the Continent is no laughing matter, because unlike here the police have powers to fine you on the spot.

As it happened, I was all the time obeying the law. But a straight, quiet French road, of which there are many once you leave the towns behind, is a temptation to put the foot down - particularly with a ferry to catch and time running short.

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